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NOTICE

On 1 June 1987 FBIS will begin publication of reorganized and renamed DAILY REPORTS. The following list details the changes being made in the eight volumes.

I.	CHINA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
II.	EASTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
III.	SOVIET UNION DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged
IV.	EAST ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly ASIA & PACIFIC DAILY REPORT; contents unchanged
V.	NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT	Renamed; formerly MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA DAILY REPORT; contents include: Middle East & South Asia Review Inter-Arab Affairs Islamic Affairs Palestinian Affairs OPEC Affairs South Asian Regional Affairs Arab Africa Algeria Chad Egypt Libya Mauritania Morocco Sudan Tunisia Western Sahara Arabian Peninsula Bahrain Kuwait Oman PDRY Qatar Saudi Arabia United Arab Emirates Yemen Arab Republic Iraq Israel Jordan Lebanon Syria South Asia Afghanistan Bangladesh India Iran Maldives Nepal & Bhutan Pakistan Sri Lanka
VI.	LATIN AMERICA DAILY REPORT	Contents unchanged

(continued on back of report)

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

23 APRIL 1987

PNC Session

Reaction to Moroccan Boycott — The official PNC spokesman expressed regret over Moroccan King Hassan II's decision to boycott the PLO, WAKH reported. Noting that the PLO had officially invited the Polisario leader to attend the PNC, the spokesman stressed that the PNC rejects any interference in its internal affairs. In related remarks carried by Algiers radio, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said Hassan's decision was an "emotional reaction which went beyond its limit," and he pointed out that the PLO did not sever relations with Morocco over the latter's contacts with Israel. The radio also broadcast PFLP leader George Habash's view that Morocco's stand should not be regretted because this will help crystallize revolutionary attitudes in the PLO, which should promote relations "with the masses, not the regimes."

PNC Work — A Baghdad Voice of PLO radio report on work at the 22 April session noted that committees were continuing discussions on political, organizational, financial, and social matters. Speeches were heard from fraternal and friendly delegations and the PNC resolved to accept the Palestinian Communist Party's representation in the PNC. PLO Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi presented a report on the events of the last 2 years, which he described as a period of "national suffering" as a result of the divisions among Palestinian factions, Algiers radio reported. The radio also stated that private discussions between the different factions have succeeded in "totally settling" differences, adding that the question of relations with Egypt has been resolved "once and for all."

In a meeting with an Egyptian delegation at the PNC, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat expressed gratitude for the "warm and positive" message he had received from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, MENA disclosed. Algiers Voice of Palestine radio noted that 'Arafat also held talks with Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov, who concluded a 3-day official visit to Algeria 22 April.

Israel

Raid in Lebanon — Israeli helicopters attacked "terrorist" targets south of Sidon early 23 April, hitting a building that served as a base for carrying out attacks against Israel, Jerusalem radio reported. Three people were wounded in the attack, according to the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon. Israeli planes subsequently distributed leaflets in southern Lebanon warning inhabitants that the IDF will resort to sharp measures to curb terrorist activity, IDF radio noted.

Peres on Peace Prospects — Jordan will enter into direct negotiations after an international opening "without any connection with the PLO," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres predicted in a 22 April Jerusalem television interview. He contended that "the issue of non-PLO representation has become a must for Jordan and an issue that will, moreover, also be supported by Syria." Reaffirming Israel's refusal to accept a separate Palestinian delegation at an international conference, Peres stressed that Israel will not attend a conference where anyone tries to coerce it, and he added that Soviet officials have told him they understand that an imposed solution would not be acceptable.

IDF radio said the interview marks the start of Peres' political campaign over his peace plan, noting that the national unity government is likely to fall if the plan is not accepted. In a related development, Jerusalem radio stated that the Israeli agriculture minister's current visit to Cairo is aimed at convincing President Husni Mubarak that the way is now open for direct talks with Jordan under some kind of international umbrella. The minister was received by Mubarak and the Egyptian prime minister 22 April, according to MENA.

Release of Palestinians — Eight out of nine Palestinian leaders arrested during recent West Bank violence were freed 21 April, according to a Palestinian source cited by AFP. However, some 100 Palestinians remain in custody in connection with "terrorist" activities that took place the night of 12 April.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad left Damascus for an "official friendly visit" to the USSR, TASS reported 23 April, adding that he is accompanied by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Defense Minister Mustafa Talas, and other officials.

The previous day the president received Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, who delivered a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, Tehran radio reported. The talks emphasized the two countries' identity of views and "firm support" for their joint stands, the radio noted. President al-Asad also received a Saudi prince who delivered a message from King Fahd, Riyadh radio reported, noting that the prince termed the meeting "more than cordial."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi warplanes carried out a "destructive strike" on the main production unit of the Ardeshir oil field in the Gulf and hit a pumping building at the Ahvaz No 2 oil field, according to a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iraq

In remarks cited by INA, President Saddam Husayn declared that "Zionist-American-Iranian military relations" were not aimed at creating a balance between the warring countries but at realizing "wicked goals" at the expense of Iraq and all Arabs. Speaking on the occasion of Air Force Day, the Iraqi president emphasized the importance of mutual respect in international relations and noted that his country "could become a friend" to the United States if it realizes that Iraq cannot be weakened by "covert attempts."

Air Force Commander Hamid Sha'ban charged that the United States and Israel continue to supply weapons and "military expertise" to Iran, INA reported. The commander alleged that Eastern and Western countries which claim neutrality are selling arms to Iran and threatened to release documentation that the leaders of such countries are "liars," AFP reported.

Iran

It is "futile" to hope for the success of an international conference on free navigation and security in the Gulf, according to a Foreign Ministry statement reported by IRNA. In fact, superpower "interference" in the area will only increase the danger of regional clashes, the statement declared.

Afghanistan

Cooperation With USSR — Seyyed Amanuddin Amin, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and K.F. Katushev, chairman of the USSR Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, signed a protocol on studying joint cooperation to construct production projects, Kabul radio reported. After joining the DRA leadership and various dignitaries at a ceremony to commemorate Lenin's birth anniversary, the Soviet delegation was seen off at the airport by Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Council of Ministers, and other officials.

Mujahidin Position — Islamic Party leader Gulbuddin Hikmatyar told a Riyadh press conference reported by SPA that the mujahidin will accept nothing less than the total withdrawal of Soviet troops and free elections under the supervision of a temporary government. Gulbuddin thanked Saudi Arabia for its "generous backing" and declared that, following the "Soviet-declared truce," mujahidin activity has been more vigorous than ever. He noted that Soviet forces have recently suffered "grave losses" in men and material, including 187 aircraft in the last 3 months.

Cyprus Suspects

Arab suspects arrested in connection with the 20 April attack on two Britons are members of pro-Libyan organizations and are suspected of involvement in an August 1986 attack on the Akrotiri Base, according to the Nicosia paper *O Filelevtheros*.

FBIS

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PNC Session Hears Speeches, Continues Work

Faruq Qaddumi Speaks

LD221711 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Report on speech by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, on 22 April at PNC session in Algiers — passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpt] Head of the PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi has presented the department's report covering the period between the 17th and 18th PNC sessions. Faruq Qaddumi referred in the Political Department's report to the development of political events during the past 2 years and their reflection on the progress of the Palestinian revolution. He described this period at the Palestinian level as one of national suffering as a result of the division among Palestinian factions, something which affected the reputation of the PLO and its role on the Arab and international levels.

The head of the PLO Political Department referred to the Palestinian people's concern for unity, and the fact that Palestinian leaders refer to the national conscience and respond to the Arab nation's gestures for solidarity. Here Faruq Qaddumi said: "The factions of the Palestinian revolution refused alternatives to the PLO. They stood by the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. We should mention with thanks the fraternal and friendly states that have helped unite the Palestinians and advanced with us toward the unity of Palestinian factions within the PLO framework. The Palestinian people stood as one in this predicament, its ranks closed and did not crack, despite several attempts to paint a false picture of the Palestinian masses attitude."

Qaddumi on the other hand confirmed that the PLO has rejected tutelage and containment from any side, and that it will maintain its independent resolutions to continue its march until victory. Qaddumi touched on PLO relations with the Arab states, beginning with the PLO's relationship with Egypt. Here he highlighted Egypt's role in the Arab-Zionist conflict, and confirmed that Camp David has created an imbalance in this conflict in favor of Israel.

With regard to the relationship between the Palestinian and the Lebanese people, he pointed out that the enemies of the Palestinian revolution have tried over the last 2 years to implement plans for the liquidation of the PLO through the Palestinian camps war in Lebanon. He said: "During the last 2 years our Palestinian camps have gone through a painful and harsh experience. The Zionist enemy is no longer the only aggressor. This time certain Arabs, which were allies in the past, were the ones who launched the fiercest attack on these steadfast camps.

"It has become clear that the continuing aggression is aimed at the following: First, to shake the Palestinian human presence in Lebanon, to bring it to the level of dispersion, banishment, and rupture, through shelling, siege, and starvation. Second, to abort the revolutionary state of this Palestinian presence and to prevent it from joining the nationalist and progressive movement in Lebanon in its brave confrontation of the Israeli occupation. Third, to split the Palestinians and push them to infighting in order to weaken them and bring about the fall of the Palestinian regime. Fourth, to prepare for the elimination of the Palestinian presence by stirring up hatred of the Palestinians and their legitimate leaders among the Lebanese masses and national. Fifth, to use the camps war to pressure the Palestinian leadership, to force problems on it, and to create alternatives to it. Sixth, to depict the PLO leadership as incapable of protecting the vital interests of these camps and defending them."

He described other Arab relations with the PLO as ties of solidarity and support. He praised the USSR's initiative for an international conference on the Middle East, praised the socialist bloc's support for the Palestinian people's struggle for self-determination and the establishment of an independent state. He described the attitude of some European states to the Palestinian cause as rather reserved, and laid bear Washington's attempts to paralyze any initiative that backs the right of the Palestinian people and eliminates the causes of conflict in the Middle East.

Qaddumi expressed the PLO's support for all peoples struggling for self-determination in Africa and Latin America.

Observers are asking why Qaddumi did not refer in his political report to the Ifrane meeting last year, which brought together the Moroccan king and the terrorist Shim'on Peres. The question has been raised especially because Qaddumi spoke in detail about PLO relations with Egypt and the eagerness to maintain these ties, bearing in mind that this issue was debated during the comprehensive Palestinian national dialogue. The question of relations with Egypt was an obstacle that was overcome when all groups agreed to define this relationship on the basis of the resolutions of the National Council and the Arab summits, especially those of the Baghdad summit, which defined a clear attitude to Egypt. They said there will be no relations with Egypt while it continues with Camp David. The Ifrane meetings caused grave damage to the Arab and the Palestinian cause. Therefore, the definition of a clear attitude toward them inevitably affects efforts for Palestinian unity. [passage omitted]

YAR President Speaks

JN230724 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 22 Apr 87

["Text" of speech by YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, at the 18th PNC session in Algeria on 21 April, delivered on his behalf by Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and member of the General People's Congress Standing Committee — read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brother struggler PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, brothers PNC members and speaker, all brothers attending. I extend to you all the greetings of revolution, struggle, and steadfastness. It pleases me to share with you the opening of the PNC session and to address you on behalf of brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, conveying his greetings to you all, expressing his happiness and that of our Yemeni people with the convocation of this PNC session, voicing his wishes of success to you, and reiterating the stands of the YAR and our eternal revolution toward the Palestine question and the Palestinian people's legitimate struggle to regain their usurped rights, and those of self-determination and the creation of an independent state on their national soil.

Brothers, we realize the importance of this historic PNC session, which expresses the democratic revolutionary will of the struggling Palestinian masses — a session which is being hosted by fraternal Algeria, the Arab country which is known for its hospitality. The Algerian leadership and government exerted sincere efforts which played an important role in making this session a reality. This is not strange because the great Algerian Arab people have always worked for the sake of achieving Palestinian unity. The Algerian people played a great role in the fight against colonialism, Zionism, and imperialism, and their plots, which seek to fragment Arab solidarity and create grudges and dissension among the sons of the one Arab nation. The regrettable camps' war between comrades-in-arms in fraternal Lebanon is part of the aggressive scheme against our Arab nation and against the Palestinian revolution to destroy its just struggle to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. However, our Arab masses' awareness enabled us to confront these plots and to achieve the unity of Palestinian ranks to guarantee a unified will, which is represented today by the convocation of the PNC in this historic meeting.

Brother audience, it is not new to say that the Zionists and those who support them will not stop hatching plots and fragmenting ranks as long as Arab differences affect the Arab nation's unity and undermine the Palestinian revolution's unity and strength — a revolution which stood fast and restored its health, effective ability, and unified will by holding this meeting. This is because the Palestinian revolution was created to exist. The Palestinian revolution will continue to be a torch for struggle and liberation to foil plots and to confront all enemy attempts against our nation. We here stress the importance of safeguarding this victory which faced many obstacles, which have been removed, thank God, by sincere and honest Arab efforts and by your awareness of all plots against the Palestinian revolution, its rifle, and the steadfastness of its masses, and of all the threats to the march of the sacred pan-Arab struggle. By safeguarding the PLO's unity, you give an important historic example to our nation — an example which is considered a new strong beginning to continue the struggle against the fierce onslaughts carried out by the enemy against our Arab nation and our central cause, the Palestine question, militarily, politically, and economically.

The Arab and Islamic nations must undoubtedly intensify their efforts to assume their national, pan-Arab, and historic responsibilities. Our Arab nation must make greater sacrifices and escalate the struggle so as to regain the Palestinian people's land, rights, and freedom, and enable them to establish their independent national state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. Moreover, the Palestinian people themselves must adhere to and safeguard their national unity under the PLO with the objective of directing stronger Palestinian guns against the Zionist and imperialist enemies and their agents to foil their conspiratorial plots against the Palestinian people, their homeland, and the Arab nation.

Brother Struggler Yasir 'Arafat, brother PNC members and speakers, brothers. The steadfastness of the struggling Palestinian masses, inside and outside the the occupied territory of Palestine, is a source of pride to the Arab and Islamic nations because it sincerely expresses the heroic confrontation of Zionist occupation challenges. This steadfastness expresses the Arab nation's determination to achieve victory and safeguard its pride and dignity. Our Arab nation must support this sacred struggle by all the material and moral potential and to protect it from any enemy attempts to destroy the Arab nation's potential. Secondary disputes are sought by our enemies to weaken our nation, to subjugate it to their aims, and to divert it from performing its duties in the fateful battle against Zionism and imperialism. The Iraq-Iran war and its continuation is a painful and sad example. This war is wasting the potential of the two neighboring Islamic states and peoples. We wonder how many lives have been lost throughout 6 years of the war? Had the material and moral potential which were exhausted in the war been devoted to fighting our true enemies, our Arab and Islamic nations would not have continued to suffer from evil. What deepens our sadness is that our repeated calls for responding to all the Islamic and international mediations between the two Islamic states, Iraq and Iran, were rejected by Iran. While reiterating our call on Iran, we express our appreciation of fraternal Iraq's response to the mediation efforts and reiterate our country's rejection of the continuation of this war and those who stand behind its continuation. We believe that dialogue, negotiations, and reasoning are the only means to settle the Arab and Islamic differences and to tackle their problems.

We in the YAR — people, leader, and revolution, reiterate our support for the Palestinian people, their revolution, and legitimate struggle for liberating the Palestinian homeland and restoring the Palestinian people's usurped rights, devoting all our potential and capabilities to achieve this purpose. We pledge to you O Palestinian revolutionaries, in the name of the Yemeni revolution and on behalf of our people, that we will continue to be loyal to our principles and commitments and to adhere to our stands and firm policy which were entrenched by the objectives of the eternal 26 September revolution and the contents of the national charter. We ask Almighty God to grant you success in achieving your heroic struggler people's aspirations for independence, unity, and victory, and in achieving the aspirations of our Arab and Islamic nations. We wish our Arab and Islamic nations continued progress and prosperity. We also ask Almighty God to grant success to your session. Greetings to the audience. Long live the revolution of the one and half million martyrs in free Algeria. Long live the triumphant Palestinian revolution. Revolution until victory! May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Various Papers Discussed

JN221931 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The PNC is continuing to discuss in its committees the proposed political, organizational, financial, and social papers. The formulation committee is discussing the political paper prepared during the PNC's preparatory meetings. The PNC has also made a decision to accept the representation of the Palestinian Communist Party in the PNC.

At the same time fraternal and friendly delegations are delivering speeches which stress the need to promote the Palestinian national struggle under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, until the Palestinian people regain their full legitimate rights. These speeches also express complete satisfaction with the Palestinian unity march and strong support for this march. Delegations also stressed their support for an international conference and for the need to hold it with all parties to the dispute present, including the PLO on equal footing with the other parties, and with the effective participation of the five permament UN Security Council member states, especially the Soviet Union and the United States.

Agreement Reached

LD230948 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
0630 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpt] On the 3d day of their meetings, the groups participating in the PNC unity session have reached agreement on all issues that caused contention in the Palestinian arena over the past few years, including the conflict over the nature of relations between Egypt and the Palestinians. Here is a report by our correspondents at the Palace of Nations:

[Correspondent] The meetings on the 3d day of the PNC unity session ended at about 2000 last night. It was topped off by the formation of the PNC's committees, which are as follows:

The Military Committee, the Popular Organizations Committee, the Finance and Economy Committee, the Legal Committee, the Political Committee, the Social Committee, the Committee for the Return of Individuals and Camps, the Occupied Homeland Committee, the Information and Culture Committee, and the Education Committee.

These committees will begin their meetings within the next few hours, devoting this morning's public session to a general discussion.

It is not certain whether the secretaries general of the Palestinian groups will be delivering any speeches. It is more likely that they will intervene whenever necessary during the discussion of the draft resolutions submitted to the committees.

Algerian Radio affirms now that the meetings held outside the public session have succeeded in totally settling the differences. We can confirm also that the ground was now ready for submitting all the issues to the PNC. We base our statement on the fact that the question of Palestinian-Egyptian relations, which has been a bone of contention among the groups, has been settled once and for all.

A very reliable Palestinian source has affirmed to us that a unanimous agreement has been reached over the final formula governing the nature of these relations based on the resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC held in Algeria and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences. [passage omitted]

Habash Says Hassan Stand Toward PLO 'Expected'

LD221934 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] There was Palestinian reaction today in Algiers due to Morocco's attitude toward the PLO. Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, said: It is regrettable to take such a stand toward the sons of Palestine, especially when they are fighting for their sacred cause.

As for PFLP General Secretary Habash, he told APS that King Hassan's move was expected. For our part, he added, we do not feel any regret or sorrow. On the contrary, this will help achieve the revolutionary national and pan-Arab stands of the PLO leadership.

Qaddumi Reacts to Hassan Move

JN221934 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1815 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has confirmed that there has been no change in the PLO's policy, which rejects interference in Arab differences. This came in a statement to foreign correspondents and AFP in Algiers following Morocco's decision to withdraw its delegation from the PNC's 18th meeting due to the presence of SDAR President Mohamed Abdelaziz at the opening session on April 20.

Other Leaders Condemn Decision

LD222013 Algiers APS in Arabic 1455 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 22 Apr (APS) — Following the announcement by King Hassan II of a boycott of the PLO because it allowed Polisario Secretary General Mohamed Abdelaziz to address the PNC in Algiers, there have been various Palestinian reactions condemning the move. The decision comes at a time when all Arab and international forces supporting the Palestinian cause are doing their best to enable the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, to play an effective role on the Arab and international scenes.

In this respect, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP, said: "The reaction of King Hassan II is in accordance with the reactionary policy adopted against the Palestinian people and the PLO. We support the movements which fight for their self-determination and independence. King Hassan's reaction against the Palestinian people and the PLO reflects his traditional stands, which are in line with Camp David and his meeting with Shim'on Peres in Ifrane. The Palestinian revolution continues its march and King Hassan's position will not hinder it."

Sulayman al-Najjab, secretary general of the Palestinian Communist Party, pointed out that while the Palestinian people are celebrating the reunification of the Palestinian resistance, King Hassan II came down on the side of those opposed to this unity.

Such a decision, banning Moroccan citizens from meeting any

Palestinian, is no different from the content of the "Ifrane Meeting;" it is also opposed to efforts under way to convene an Arab summit, of which the PNC forms an important base. It is identical to the U.S.-Israeli view of things. This decision, which follows Shim'on Peres' visit to Ifrane, has the goal of separate deals, which are rejected by the PLO, the PNC, the Palestinian people, and the resolutions of the various Arab summits.

Al-Wazir, Khalaf Comment

LD222125 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The work of national unity at the PNC continues at the Palace of Nations in Algiers. Our team at the PNC reports:

As the hours pass, it becomes more certain that the session will be a complete success. Meetings have been held on the sidelines of the open session. In the last meeting, which was held before noon today, representatives of the various delegations present here were able to completely remove all differences. Later tonight, the PNC committees will be formed, and they will begin work tomorrow. It has not been confirmed yet whether the secretaries general of the groups will speak or not. It is more likely that they will participate whenever necessary during the discussion of the drafts submitted to the committees.

While awaiting this we can also confirm that the ground is now fully prepared for the submission of all matters to the council. According to a highly reliable Palestinian source, the issue of Palestine relations with the Egyptian regime, which were the subject of give and take among the groups, has been finally settled. The same source confirmed to us that these relations will be in accordance with the resolutions passed by the 16th PNC session, which was held in Algiers, and in accordance with Arab summit resolutions. We have also learned that the reaching of a settlement on this matter will be officially announced tomorrow. [passage omitted]

What is happening now is that the heads of the delegations of the countries invited to the session continue to deliver their speeches. The participation by numerous delegations indicates the huge support enjoyed by the struggling Palestinian people throughout the world, under the leadership of the PLO, its sole legitimate representative.

Parallel to this, participants and observers received the Moroccan king's orders with great regret — the orders to every Moroccan to boycott PLO representatives at any meetings. Here is the opinion of brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] on this serious matter, which did not come as a surprise to many:

[Begin Al-Wazir recording] There is no doubt that this is a regrettable matter, to see further division among the peoples of the Arab world. We in the Palestinian revolution always look to fraternal relations between us and our brothers all over the Arab world. This is a basic truth of our actions, a basic truth which we have learned from the revolution of Algeria, the revolution which was interested in supporting all struggling Arab peoples. We in the Palestinian revolution are also intent on having natural relations with people all over the Arab world. This is the first fact. The second fact is that this decision is a regrettable one, and there is no doubt that we will study it, and in the light of this make the proper decision. [end recording] [passage omitted]

And here is the comment of Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of Fatah Central Committee:

[Begin Khalaf recording] I believe that there was an emotional reaction which went too far. I do not think that this kind of incitement can be productive, either with the Moroccan people, or the peoples of North Africa. One cannot at all imagine that by hosting any Arab in this national council, because this council is open to every liberation movement, to every Arab man to talk in it. [sentence as heard] The delegate of King Hassan could have delivered his speech and replied if there was a need for this. The council is not under pressure from our Algerian brothers in order to say: Ban him from speaking. All who come to us are our guests. Consequently, I do not believe that getting excited is beneficial. There were many meetings which took place in Morocco, Israel and elsewhere, on which we did not comment by severing relations or anything of the sort. On the contrary, we were always intent on maintaining good and excellent relations with Morocco. Therefore, I consider this excitement useless, and I do not think that any method can incite the Moroccan people and prevent it from supporting, with its Arab brothers, the Palestinian cause and revolution. [end recording]

PFLP General Secretary George Habash has this to say on the matter:

[Begin Habash recording] We do not feel any regret or sorrow. On the contrary, this will facilitate the crystallization of the national, pan-Arab, and revolutionary attitudes of the PLO leadership. We must know as a leadership of Palestinian national action that our primary dependence should be based on the Arab masses. And unless we learn this lesson from the 20 years of march, we will not have gained anything from the experience of these long years. Our primary ally is the masses. If the Arab regimes represent these masses, their opinions, and their will, we are with these masses and with the regimes which represent them. But if the attitude of the Arab regimes contradicts that of the masses, the attitude should be decided. PLO relations should be with the masses, not the regimes. [end recording] [passage omitted]

PNC Spokesman Voices 'Regret'

JN230635 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0535 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 23 Apr (WAKH) — Official PNC Spokesman Ahmad 'Abd al-Rahman has reiterated the PNC's regret over the recent Moroccan decision on the PLO which was announced by Moroccan King Hassan II last night. In a press conference held here last night, 'Abd al-Rahman explained that an official invitation was extended to Polisario Secretary General Mohamed Abdelaziz to attend the PNC session and that the PNC rejects any interference in its internal affairs. He affirmed that the convocation of the PNC is a decisive turning point in the history of the PLO at which a new stage of the Palestinian people's struggle begins leading to inevitable final victory. 'Abd al-Rahman indicated that it is not important to say who is right or who is wrong but it is important for all the factions to meet today on firm principles. He indicated that these principles are: National unity, the establishment of the Palestinian state, the convocation of an international conference for peace in the Middle East as a sound framework to find a just, permanent solution to the Palestinian people's issue, to be attended by the PLO as an independent party, the adoption of military and political struggle within a unified framework, and ensuring that the PLO is the sole spokesman of the Palestinian people in all Arab and international forums.

'Abd al-Rahman rejected procuration and deputization and anything short of these firm principles on issues such as the PLO relations with this or that country. He said that these matters are determined by facts and cannot affect dialogue and the future of the Palestine question. In this regard, he called for a meeting of the steadfastness and confrontation front to determine an Arab strategy to which everyone would adhere. Regarding the possibility of convening an international peace conference in the absence of a strategic balance with the Zionist enemy, he affirmed that the international conference cannot be measured by a balance but is proposed as an idea as a result of intense diplomatic efforts aimed at establishing international peace.

Muhammad 'Abbas Resigns From PLO Committee

JN222046 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 22 Apr (WAKH) — It was learned here tonight that Muhammad 'Abbas, alias Abu al-'Abbas, secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF], has resigned from the PLO Executive Committee due to differences between him and Tal'at Ya'qub, secretary general of the mainstream PLF from which Abu al-'Abbas had split. Intensive efforts have recently been exerted in Algiers to reunite the two streams of the PLF, but the two sides' conditions prevented that.

A WAKH correspondent at the PNC meetings in Algiers said Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, and Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, had put great pressure on Abu al-'Abbas to resign from the PLO Executive Committee in favor of Tal'at Ya'qub. As a result of this pressure, Abu al-'Abbas tendered his resignation.

The PLO Executive Committee is expected to accept his resignation and replace him with Tal'at Ya'qub in the next PLO Executive committee elections, which will be held at the end of the 18th PNC session in Algiers.

'Abbas Denies Resignation

JN230615 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
0500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Nabil Darwish dispatch from Algiers]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Abu al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] today denied a statement attributed to him that he intends to resign his PLO Executive Committee membership. In any case, it is presently not clear if the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] is going to be represented in the committee or if Abu al-'Abbas will continue to be a member. This issue has to be resolved when the differences between the two PLF wings are settled. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Meets Egyptian Group, Views PLO Cause

NC221804 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Algiers, 22 Apr (MENA) — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, today told an Egyptian delegation of public figures and newsmen that the Egyptian people are unanimous in their opinions about the Palestinian issue and the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people.

In a meeting today 'Arafat said that he had received a warm and positive message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, in which the Egyptian president wished the PNC success in its meeting. 'Arafat expressed his gratitude for the message, saying that Egypt has never failed to support the Palestinians, and we are counting on its continued backing.

'Arafat said that common ground has been reached through the recent inter-Palestinian dialogue on the major issues and the future course of the Palestinian struggle. We attach great importance to the development of our relations with the Arab countries bordering Israel: Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon, because peace cannot be achieved and war cannot be waged without them, 'Arafat added.

'Arafat said that the unity of the Palestinian people had been violated by certain Arab forces who wanted to take the Palestinian cards and use them for their own purposes. Palestinian blood shed in the occupied homeland and inside the Palestinian camps is the real reason for the unity achieved in Algiers, 'Arafat said, adding that some minor Palestinian groups not included in the dialogue are still welcomed by the PLO.

Concerning the abrogation of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord, 'Arafat said that the PLO went along with the agreement for 15 months, but, he added, since the coordination with Jordan ceased, there has been no progress and no attempt to correct the situation.

Asked about the impact of the abrogation of this accord on the international conference, 'Arafat referred to the Geneva conference in 1977, saying that the two superpowers' positions are decisive with regard to the conference. He added that the PLO is not blaming King Husayn for the failure of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord to achieve results. 'Arafat maintained that the abrogation of the accord has opened the door for the idea of holding an international conference, noting that he had already said he was ready to participate [in the peace talks] within an Arab delegation.

We are calling for an effective international conference to be held in line with the Casablanca recommendations; that is, we would participate on equal footing with the other concerned parties and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, 'Arafat said. He added: We are asking for guarantees based on international conventions.

On Palestinian-Syrian relations, 'Arafat said he is ready to turn a new page in ties with Syria. He said he has sent an invitation to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to take part in the PNC meeting. An Algerian emissary conveyed the invitation to Al-Asad, but he did not show up, 'Arafat said. The PLO leader added: We are hoping for relations with Syria based on equality, in which we can act as members of the one family and stand together against imperialist-Zionist designs in the region, against the usurpation of Palestinian rights, and against plots to partition Lebanon.

Concerning the PLO position on UN Resolution 242, 'Arafat said he refuses to deal with this resolution as a separate entity. He declared that no one has the right to force him to deal with a resolution that ignores the Palestinian question while others are dealing with all other resolutions. [sentence as received]

Noting improved Palestinian-Libyan ties, 'Arafat said this was the result of the Libyan leader's position on the attacks on the Palestinian camps and Libyan support for dialogue and reconciliation among the Palestinians.

'Arafat said he has been mediating in the issue of the two Libyan planes now in Egypt, noting that President Mubarak has responded positively in this respect.

As his meeting with the Egyptian delegation ended, 'Arafat said that Palestine is still the difficult factor in the Middle East equation and that he challenges anyone to try to overlook it.

Meets With Bulgaria's Zhivkov

LD221945 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revoution forces, met yesterday evening at Al-Mithaq Palace in Algiers with Comrade Todor Zhivkov, president of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and general secretary of the Bulgarian Communist Party. Also present at the meeting were members of the PLO Executive Committee and secretaries general of the Palestinian revolutionary factions.

According to informed Palestinian sources, a comprehensive review of recent developments on the Palestinian, Arab, and international scenes was undertaken during the meeting. President Zhivkov greeted brother leader Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian leadership on the unifying achievements which have been accomplished, and which have been crowned by the 18th PNC session.

Todor Zhivkov stressed anew his country's firm stance and that of the socialist bloc countries toward the just Palestinian cause, the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishing of an independent state under the direction of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative.

INTRA-GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Labor Ministers Open Abu Dhabi Conference

JN211819 Manama WAKH in English 1630 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, April 21 (GNA) — The Fifth Conference of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) opened here today.

The session was attended by labour and social affairs ministers of Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait.

Present were also 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, secretary- general of the Gulf Cooperation Council and undersecretaries of the Labour and Social Affairs Ministries who concluded their preparatory meetings here yesterday.

In an opening speech, UAE Labour and Social Affairs Minister Khalifah al-Rumi said that the meeting which will discuss labour and social affairs of interest to the GCC countries constituted a positive step on the way which was drawn by the GCC leaders to promote cooperation among the Council states.

He stressed that joint efforts were undertaken in the labour and social field and described them as positive steps along the road stipulated by the GCC leaders to strengthen mutualities, coordinate stances and exchange views and ideas to realize the aspirations of the people in the region in development and prosperity.

The GCC secretary-general addressed the opening session and said that several resolutions were approved by the GCC leaders and the specialised committees to improve joint cooperation and achieve integration among the Council members.

He said the unification of laws and regulations was a hard job but the council was determined to continue efforts to reach the aspired results.

The GCC Secretary-general said that the GCC leaders adopted during their summit in Muscat a plan that will be implemented in stages on linking the member-countries with joint projects and unifying their stands towards the important issues.

After the opening session, the labour and social affairs ministers held a closed door meeting to discuss subjects listed in their agenda.

The meetings will resume later this evening.

Ministers Conclude Conference

JN220942 Doha QNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (QNA) — The GCC labor and social affairs ministers concluded their fifth conference here this evening. During the meeting, which lasted [words indistinct], the ministers discussed several topics related to labor and social issues including the labor laws and regulations, the social security laws, and the best use of local manpower. 'Ali ibn Ahmad al-Ansari, Qatari labor and social affairs minister, said that due to the importance of the topics that were submitted for discussion, the ministers decided that the topics need further study and should be discussed by the next conference.

In a statement to QNA following the meeting in Abu Dhabi, the minister said most of the topics that were discussed were returned to the GCC General Secretariat to prepare the required study. The minister said the most important topics were the issue of equality among the GCC citizens working in the private sector, the social security regulations, the unified system of hiring foreign workers, and the issue of combating the spread of drugs.

The minister added: Due to the fact that drugs have been spread in the region's states by foreign elements, the ministers decided to take several effective measures to protect the Gulf community from this disease, and to refer the issue to competent authorities to take the necessary measures. Leading these authorities are the interior, health, social affairs, information, and youth ministries.

KUWAIT

Al-Usaymi Returns After Attending PNC Session

LD222204 Kuwait KUNA in English 0802 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Kuwait, April 22 (KUNA) — Representative of H.H. the amir of Kuwait, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-Usaymi returned home last night following a visit to Algeria where he was attending the inauguration of the 18th session of the Palestine National Council which was opened on Monday.

Al-Usaymi read out the message of H.H. the amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah to the conferees in which H.H. hoped success to the session and called for exerting all efforts to achieve Palestinian unity.

The Kuwaiti minister conveyed messages from H.H. to PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, and to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on bilateral relations.

In an arrival statement, Al-Usaymi declared that PNC greatly thanked H.H. the amir for his stands toward the Palestine cause and people.

OMAN

USSR's Petrovskiy Arrives for 2-Day Visit

LD221102 Kuwait KUNA in English 1015 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Muscat, April 22 (KUNA) — Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy arrived here today on the third leg of his Gulf tour and Radio Muscat said the Soviet official will examine bilateral relations during his two-day stay here.

At a news conference last night in Abu Dhabi, Petrovskiy said he expects by 1988, the Indian Ocean region will be turned into a peaceful region as a result of the Soviet-proposed conference to secure freedom of navigation in the Gulf. The projected conference was suggested by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Petrovskiy said the Soviet Union was keen on having this conference held as early as possible. Petrovskiy started his Gulf tour with Kuwait, where he arrived last Thursday.

Meets With Sultan Qabus

JN221352 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id received His Excellency Vladimir Petrovskiy, the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister, at his office today. The Soviet official handed his majesty a message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. The meeting was attended by His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq Al Sa'id, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, and the Soviet ambassador to the Sultanate.

SAUDI ARABIA

Libyan Delivers Message to King Fahd, Departs

LD222147 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1510 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Riyadh 22 Apr (SPA) — Jaddallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Committee for Foreign Liaison, left Riyadh this afternoon following a visit to the Kingdom during which he conveyed a verbal message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, from His Excellency Libyan President [as received] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

He was seen off at King Khalid International Airport by 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Thunayyan, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry; 'Isa al-Nuwwaysar, chief of the protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Milud al-'Uraybi, the Libyan charge d'affairs to the Kingdom.

UAE

USSR's Vladimir Petrovskiy Departs 21 Apr

JN220705 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2140 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 Apr (WAKH) — USSR Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy left Abu Dhabi this evening for Muscat following a 2-day visit to the UAE within the framework of a tour of a number of the region's states. During the visit, the Soviet official held talks with UAE officials on developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East, current international issues, and bilateral relations.

YAR

Romanian Deputy Foreign Minister Holds Talks

JN220940 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The second official round of talks was held yesterday between our country and Romania under the chairmanship of Brother Ahmad al-Iryani, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Traian Pop, Romanian deputy foreign minister.

During the session, the two sides reviewed international issues of common interest, particularly the situation in the Middle East, the effort to restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, the Gulf war, UN efforts to maintain peace in the Indian Ocean, international efforts exerted to end the arms race, the situation in Europe and the international economic situation in general, in addition to the UN role in international relations and the problems it is facing. Views were identical on most of the issues discussed.

Prime Minister Receives Soviet Delegation

JN221948 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and member of the Standing Committee, today received [name indistinct], secretary of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries, and the accompanying delegation which are visiting our country. During the meeting the two sides discussed relations between the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council and the Soviet Solidarity Committee.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad Lugman, minister of municipalities and housing, member of the Standing Committee, and secretary general of the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council; Brother 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shabibi, member of the YAR Peace and Solidarity Council Secretariat; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

Mubarak Discusses International Ties, Elections

NC100818 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Apr 87 pp 3, 4

[Interview with President Husni Mubarak by *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* Chief Editor 'Irfan Nizam al-Din at the Presidency in Cairo on 7 April]

[Text] [Nizam al-Din] The issue of war and peace always tops all others in the Arab world. So, let us begin with developments in the efforts to convene an international conference and your own work on this. What is the current situation?

[Mubarak] We are still engaged in strenuous efforts with all parties, including the United States, Jordan, and the PLO. Frankly, the international conference can be convened if intentions are good. But if intentions are insincere, there would be neither an international conference nor an issue for it to deal with, as that gathering is supposed to convene on the basis of the PLO's recognition of the two UN resolutions. I ask the Palestinians to find a proper way to recognize the resolutions so this matter will not be neglected. No agreement on this has been secured.

We are also facing rifts in the Arab world. Currently, we find each party working unilaterally. How can the international conference possibly convene if we remain divided? This division also affects the Palestinian issue, which involves many parties. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is doing everything he can, but all the parties concerned must agree. I see no way to convene this conference unless all efforts are united.

[Nizam al-Din] What about the European role and contacts with European countries?

[Mubarak] The Europeans have agreed to the conference in principle. Israel also agrees in principle, but when it sees intransigence in some of the PLO groups it lays down certain "theatrical" conditions.

[Nizam al-Din] And the United States?

[Mubarak] The United States will agree to the international conference when all other parties have done so. Why are obstacles constantly being raised, with one party saying that the Soviet Union must participate and another saying that this or that must be done? These differences among us as Arabs dictate scattered and conflicting interactions. But if we agree as Arabs, then we can speak with one voice and can concentrate our efforts on Israel, United States, and the Soviet Union and thereby reach an understanding with them on this issue, particularly as the Soviets and the Americans must agree in the end if there is to be any chance of establishing peace, as they are both superpowers. Everything depends on the Arabs' ability to unite their stand. If there is no united position, I cannot be optimistic.

[Nizam al-Din] Your Excellency, the differences on the question of Palestinian representation surfaced during King Husayn's recent visit to Cairo, differences as to who will represent the PLO or the Palestinian people.

[Mubarak] My Lord, we have discussed this issue interminably with the United States and Israel. There are many possible solutions to the problem of Palestinian representation within the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Israel has not objected, but certain other voices have been raised in refusal, because they found that we do not agree. Hence, Israel must also object. I believe that if we first agree among ourselves, we can convince them of our conditions and positions.

[Nizam al-Din] Could the PNC meeting scheduled to take place in Algiers have any effect on the Palestinians' intransigence and on their position concerning the proposed means of convening the international conference, so that a solution to the region's pressing problems can be found?

[Mubarak] I will wait until the PNC meets. Should it utter one word against Egypt, I will take a stand, as Egypt has made every possible sacrifice for the Palestinian cause and has not abandoned them despite what they say about us. There is no excuse for one-upmanship, and there is absolutely no room for attempts to raise doubts about Egypt's Arabism. Its position on this is above suspicion. Indeed, three Gulf papers said this, not us. However, if they seek to use Egypt's history and reputation as "a ploy", we will take another position. It would be unwise to abrogate the Amman agreement, because that would ruin everything and put King Husayn in a corner. He, too, wants a solution to the issue and he would be left in a very difficult position in any discussion of PLO representation. If they wish to reject the Amman agreement, I must ask: What is the alternative? In my view, it would be a very serious thing if they were to do so. The entire world would lose confidence in the PLO. It would be a grave mistake on the part of the PLO to take this action. I urge them to think it through many times before making a decision on this issue.

[Nizam al-Din] Have you been in touch with Abu 'Ammar recently?

[Mubarak] We are always in contact with Abu 'Ammar, but the other parties must also understand the situation. He can do nothing by himself. Some time ago Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] assailed us in a statement and later Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] attacked us in another. These things are unfathomable. I have maintained and I now repeat that Egypt is absolutely not for sale.

[Nizam al-Din] In a statement to *Al-Sharq al-Awsat* a week ago, 'Arafat proposed a joint Arab delegation in which the PLO would participate simply as one of the parties represented within the delegation. Do you agree with this proposal?

[Mubarak] Didn't they agree with Jordan on a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation?

[Nizam al-Din] They say that there are difficulties in that.

[Mubarak] I would like to know what these problems are. Can they tell us?

[Nizam al-Din] There are differences over the issue of the relationship with Jordan both within and outside Fatah.

[Mubarak] I must reiterate that any unified Arab delegation would end up shooting itself in the foot. This was discussed with Israel in September 1977, and it wanted a unified Arab delegation. I mentioned then that problems would arise from this. We are simply harping on an old tune.

[Nizam al-Din] What solution would you propose for the PLO?

[Mubarak] I am no mediator, and I do not want to impose anything on the PLO. They must make their own choices and voice their reservations about it [UN Resolution 242], because the entire world realizes that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are the basis for convening the international conference. I call on them to proffer their reservations and anything else they want so that we all may discuss them and reach an agreement, particularly since they earlier recognized all UN resolutions, including resolution 242, though they rejected them 2 days later. This makes us a laughingstock in front of the world and prompts some to question whether they really want a solution. I, myself, cannot answer this question.

[Nizam al-Din] In a statement to *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said that if the PLO agrees on Resolution 242, she might support the international conference.

[Mubarak] The international conference would only convene on the basis of both UN resolutions; everyone agrees on this: the United States, the Soviet Union, and Europe. Should we be the only parties to oppose it?

[Nazam al-Din] The PLO believes that Resolution 242 is the last card it holds, according to PLO officials' statements, and it does not want to lose it without being certain that such an act will be the first step toward a solution.

[Mubarak] PLO officials have recognized Resolution 242 in the past. They said: We recognize all UN resolutions, including 242. Then 2 days later they retracted their recognition. I say to them: Recognize the resolution, expressing your reservations about it. The important thing is that we find a solution.

[Nizam al-Din] PLO officials view this as a loss, particularly in that Resolution 242 is their last card.

[Mubarak] If this is the case and they do not want to recognize the resolution, they should offer an alternative. We say to them: Draw up a formula to revive the issue and put the opportunists in a difficult position. Thus, no one will be able to criticize us. We will place before the entire world its responsibility. I say to them again: Find a method to recognize the two UN resolutions. The entire world says: Here are the two resolutions. Express your reservations and find a way. I do not want to say a word, one way or the other, so that they [not further identified] will not exploit it. However, I say: Search for a way to recognize the two UN resolutions.

[Nizam al-Din] You were the center of attention following the Islamic summit in Kuwait. What is your assessment of your meetings there with Arab and Muslim leaders?

[Mubarak] Our meetings with the Arab leaders were very good. Our relations with them are good, and contacts are continuing, with the exception of Syria. You know what happened.

[Nizam al-Din] What is the real story of the contacts with Syria?

[Mubarak] We agreed 2 years ago to send an envoy to Syria, but when President al-Asad entered the Islamic conference hall he attacked us. How can I send an envoy to Syria? I am willing to do so if there is an inclination toward agreement.

[Nizam al-Din] Was Mahmud Riyad the envoy?

[Mubarak] No, Mahmud Riyad was the last envoy. I dispatched an envoy to him [Al-Asad] in the past. After shuttle trips spanning over 2 years, I find him saying: You have not honored your promise. What promise did I fail to honor? Does he want me to abolish accords and place myself at his disposal? I have told him that the accords Egypt has concluded must be respected, as established by institutions within Egypt. If he can cancel accords personally let him do so. However, to cancel accords in Egypt I must take the issue to the people, who have the rights in this respect and who will bear the consequences of such an act. I have to talk to the people and explain the situation to them. If the people agree, but I am not convinced, I would say so. This issue is serious and futile, because it is not in Egypt's interest and I cannot proceed on this path. Regarding relations with Syria, I saw President al-Asad in front of me as I entered the conference hall. I would have found it embarrassing to avoid him, particularly as he had been a friend. I spoke to him, hoping that the chill would disappear and that he would understand the situation. However, he said: "No." When I talked to him about the importance of a meeting between us, he replied: On the condition that I know the result in advance. He stipulated his conditions before a meeting. Do I abrogate accords? How can this happen? I would lose my credibility in the world. The future cannot be determined with a conversation of two or three words. No, we have institutions and people who are aware and know, in the first place, how to approve what is submitted to them. The people must understand the issue, and I cannot make a decision against the interest of the people who elected me. When I make a decision it must be approved by the people, as this decision will have an effect — positive or negative — on the Egyptian public.

[Nizam al-Din] Mr President, it was reported recently that a decision will be announced soon with regard to Arab relations.

[Mubarak] Rumors are many. When people have "nothing to do" they start creating rumors. I have heard, for example, that I have been invited to visit the Soviet Union. But this remains mere "talk," which I read about in the papers, just as you do.

[Nizam al-Din] In light of the recent visit to Cairo by [Sudanese Prime Minister] Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Brotherhood Charter signed with him, what is your assessment of Egyptian-Sudanese relations, now and in the future?

[Mubarak] Our relations with Sudan are long-standing. Al-Mirghani [Chairman of the Sudanese State Council] first visited, and then Al-Mahdi. The meeting with Al-Mahdi was a good one, and we agreed during it on the Brotherhood Charter. Our relations with them will remain good.

[Nizam al-Din] Have relations with Sudan been affected following recent developments between Libya and Chad?

[Mubarak] There is absolutely no problem with Sudan. The issue of Libya's entry into Sudanese territories is Sudan's concern; I have nothing to do with it.

[Nizam al-Din] Have the Libyan forces now left Sudan?

[Mubarak] I do not know. They [not further identified] say that they have left, and the Armed Forces issued an order. But whether or not this happened, we do not care. We do not spy on any country; we hear only what the news agencies report.

[Nizam al-Din] Regarding relations with Libya, reports have circulated in the past that contacts were beginning, but then there were the developments involving the planes and the Chad saga, and these contacts were torpedoed. What is the truth?

[Mubarak] Are we the ones who have hijacked planes or intervened in Chad? We have not hijacked planes or intervened in Chad.

[Nizam al-Din] Is there any mediation, then, to improve relations with Libya?

[Mubarak] There are absolutely no contacts. I have stressed in recent statements that there is no problem between me and the Libyan people. I hope they will again be able to be the masters of their fate. Regarding the issue of the two [Libyan] planes here, the Yemeni president [not further identified] approached us about the first plane, and when the second aircraft landed. [sentence as published] But nothing has developed on this issue since we demanded the release of three Egyptians detained in Libya in exchange for the two aircraft.

[Nizam al-Din] What is the story on these three Egyptians?

[Mubarak] Two soldiers on the border crossed deep into Libyan territory and were arrested. The third was a bedouin who had entered Libyan territory, and they claim he directed the U.S. planes. What sane person would believe that a bedouin with an "obsolete" piece of equipment was directing aircraft coming from "London"?

[Nizam al-Din] But has any decision been made with regard to the Libyan pilots or planes?

[Mubarak] We are not kidnappers. The pilots came to us with suitcases. The technicians asked to go back. We are treating them nobly. As to the second plane, one of the crew asked for political asylum and the others want to go back. I want to stress that we are not detaining anyone, nor do we want anyone to come here. We have asked for the release of the three Egyptians in return for our delivering the aircraft and the Libyans who want to go home. We cannot force anyone to go back. They have informed me indirectly that they are willing to send two people to Egypt, to remain here while an Egyptian crew flies the plane to Libya and then returns. I tell them frankly: "Try something else." If he fears sending a crew to take the plane back because they too might ask for asylum, that is his problem. But I tell him: Send someone to take the plane back, and give us the three Egyptians. I do not want the aircraft; I do not want to hold anyone. But what can I do when someone asks me voluntarily for asylum? As to talk that the plane had lost its way, this is not true. The planes that landed here have equipment to prevent their going off course.

[Nizam al-Din] Does the Egyptian Constitution guarantee the right of political asylum for the military, too, or only for politicians?

[Mubarak] The Egyptian Constitution does not differentiate between the two. It grants the right of political asylum to anyone.

[Nizam al-Din] We have recently observed an improvement in relations between Egypt and the Gulf countries and Saudi Arabia. Can you give us some details?

[Mubarak] Our relations with our brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are constant, and I have personal relations with them as well. I can only say that our relations with the Gulf states are very good.

[Nizam al-Din] Saudi Arabia's exhibition, "Between Yesterday and Today," will be coming to Cairo in June. What is your comment; will you open it?

[Mubarak] Yes, why shouldn't I? It is an exhibition from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Strong ties bind us to the Saudi Kingdom. Despite our so-called "frozen" relations, no other countries in the world have as much air traffic as that which exists between us and Saudi Arabia. Thus, when a Saudi exhibition comes here, the least I can do is open it. Our bonds with Saudi Arabia are much greater than this.

[Nizam al-Din] How do you view this exhibition coming to Egypt?

[Mubarak] I very much welcome it. It is an exhibition mounted by a fraternal country. It is entitled "the Kingdom Between Yesterday and Today." I am very pleased with all the progress and prosperity achieved by Saudi Arabia, because it means prosperity for us, too.

[Nizam al-Din] On the issue of relations with Algeria: We had heard about an improvement in the situation and the impending resumption of relations, but then along came the repercussions of recent statements. Have these statements affected the improvement?

[Mubarak] There was never any talk about an imminent resumption of relations. We were surprised by President Chadli Bendjedid's statement. I personally did not understand it. I do not understand the motives or reasons behind it. What is meant by the statement that Egypt must take one or two steps? I do not like anyone telling us what we must do. Nor would I try to impose my views on anyone who does not want to restore relations with me. I have not asked him to restore relations. Did I, for example, ask King Husayn to restore relations with us when he announced their restoration? Absolutely not. We heard it over Jordanian radio and then I received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn. There is Djibouti, too. Did I ask it to restore relations? Absolutely not. I was surprised by his statement. Why take these stands? What has Egypt done?

Let me talk frankly about what took place before the Baghdad summit was held. Had the Arabs at least agreed to send one of the Arab countries' leaders to meet with the president of Egypt, then either of those two parties might have been able to convince the others of his view and an understanding would have been reached. Instead, they sent the Lebanese prime minister and two foreign ministers. How can a president permit a prime minister to tell him: You are wrong, you should not have done this. No one would accept that. Certainly, the dignity of the Egyptian people could not accept it. That was one of the mistakes committed at the Baghdad summit. I was vice president at the time. As an Egyptian citizen, I was deeply grieved because the person who came to talk to the president of Egypt was a prime minister. What would the president say to him? How could he accept a rebuke from him? But had the conference decided to send [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid or our brother King Fahd, who was then a crown prince, they might have exchanged views and might even have reached an understanding. Who could agree to the dispatch of a prime minister to say: Al-Sadat, you made a mistake; what you did was inappropriate. There is not a single leader in the Arab nation who would agree to be told by a lower-level official that he is wrong. No one would accept this. What about Egypt and the Egyptian people's feelings? I considered it an insult, and the Egyptian people considered it an insult. We, as Egyptians, have our dignity, and we have harmed no one. Even when President Chadli Bendjedid made his statement, a statement was also made by an official containing nothing but rebuke.

[Nizam al-Din] have there been any new developments in relations with Morocco, or with regard to the restoration of normal relations, now that Mohamed al-Tazi, who holds the rank of ambassador, has arrived to handle Moroccan affairs?

[Mubarak] I will not discuss this issue. Anyone who wants to restore relations with Egypt is welcome. Basically, you cannot impose relations on anyone. In my view, relations actually exist between Egypt and most Arab countries. It is only formalities that remain. Contacts are taking place and we are discussing numerous issues. Trade, information, and cultural agreements are being signed and visits are exchanged. My personal relations with them are very good.

[Nizam al-Din] Your Excellency Mr President, what about the relationship with Israel? During Peres' most recent visit, a statement was issued conveying acceptance of the idea of an international conference. This was done in Peres' name as Israeli foreign minister and without the government's approval.

[Mubarak] No. When agreement was reached on the convention of an international conference, Peres was prime minister. In Alexandria in September 1986, when Peres came and made his announcement about the international conference, he did so in his capacity as prime minister. Furthermore, I am dealing with a state. Yitzhaq Shamir rejects that, but this is unimportant. He has found us divided and in disagreement. Some say no to an international conference and some agree to it. In light of this, Shamir has demanded direct negotiations, but this is merely rhetoric. In practical terms, direct talks are bound to take place during an international conference. Otherwise, how could we talk at the conference? The parties concerned must talk with each other. Or do you think carrier pigeons will be used to carry news or that the parties will talk with each other over the telephone, through a third party? If you want to resolve an issue you must sit down with the party concerned. We need not go far for an example. The United States sat down with Vietnam. The biggest country sat down with the smallest country to resolve an issue.

[Nizam al-Din] But Yitzhaq Shamir, who is an extremist, has rejected the idea to date.

[Mubarak] He rejects it because he knows that we are all "quarreling" with each other. If we agree among ourselves, he is bound to understand the situation.

[Nizam al-Din] It has been said that you have refused to meet with Shamir because of his intransigent stand on the issue of peace.

[Mubarak] Shamir has not requested a meeting, and I have not sought to meet with him. Why should I meet with Shamir? There must be a peace program for us to discuss at such a meeting. There must be an issue pertaining to the Palestinian cause for us to talk about. Before this happens, we, the Arabs, must already have reached agreement, for I cannot speak on behalf of the PLO. If they authorize me to do so, and all of the Arabs have agreed among themselves, then I will be able to do that. I cannot, however, go and speak with Shamir on behalf of the PLO. I cannot make concessions with regard to territory that I do not possess.

[Nizam al-Din] On the Iraq-Iran war: Do you think there can be a solution that will end it?

[Mubarak] Every party is holding to its views tenaciously. It seems there is no end to this war, particularly since our Iranian brothers are extremely adamant.

[Nizam al-Din] Recent reports indicate that you have sent arms and experts to Iraq. Is there any truth in this?

[Mubarak] We regularly give Iraq some defensive weapons and ammunition. However, we do not give offensive weapons that are of no concern to those Islamic states, and this is a problem that we are facing. If we had relations with the other party, we could speak more frankly.

[Nizam al-Din] What is Egypt's stand on Iran's threat to the Strait of Hormuz?

[Mubarak] The strait concerns not only Egypt, but the entire world. There is an international position on the Strait of Hormuz. I believe that Iran will not close the strait, as an international problem, as opposed to a purely Arab one, would result. All of the world's oil passes through that strait and all international ships cross it. Its closure would have an impact on the whole world and would not be an Arab problem alone.

[Nizam al-Din] You have previously referred to rumors about your visit to Moscow. Also, we have recently seen intensive contacts with the USSR. How would you assess relations with the Soviet Union?

[Mubarak] Our relations with the Soviet Union are quite normal. We have owed them military debts for a long time. We have now agreed to reschedule them, and they have given us a good grace period. We will pay these debts over several years, and the issue has been settled.

[Nizam al-Din] What about a report that you refused to visit the United States following the Irangate scandal?

[Mubarak] Basically, we never agreed on the visit. Following the Irangate issue, the Americans got very busy, but we had never agreed on this visit in the first place.

[Nizam al-Din] But a certain paper reported that the visit would take place within the next 3 months.

[Mubarak] Newspapers may publish reports, but we did not agree on anything.

[Nizam al-Din] Has the issue of military debts to the United States been resolved?

[Mubarak] Our talks are continuing.

[Nizam al-Din] Does Dr Salah Hamid's presence in the United States have anything to do with this issue?

[Mubarak] Dr Salah Hamid is discussing another subject with the IMF.

[Nizam al-Din] Your Excellency, your first term in office was marked by many achievements. What about the projects during your second term?

[Mubarak] The projects for my second term will be submitted to the People's Assembly within the second 5-year plan. During my first term in office, we made great progress domestically. For example, approximately 1,942 projects were established. If you visit the new cities, you will see these projects, such as the 6 October City and the Madinat al-Sadat. You would be surprised at the number of projects. Most visitors who saw these projects could not believe that so much had been achieved in such a short time. We have accomplished such progress because we followed our plan to the letter. The plan will be completed and its projects accomplished by 30 June.

There are many examples in the area of housing. The number of housing projects that have been completed exceed those that were built in the previous 20 years. Despite our housing crisis, we are doing our utmost. In the area of telephone service, we have increased the number of phones from 500,000 to 1,500,000. It is now easy to make telephone calls to any of the world's countries. As for roads, we have built many and have paved thousands of kilometers. We also now generate 1.5 times more electricity than when the plan was launched. Before the development plan began, we produced 18 billion kw; we now generate 45 billion kw, an increase of 27 billion kw. Electricity was introduced to Egypt in 1906. By 1981, we were producing 18 billion kw. In the past 5 years, electricity production increased by 1.5 times over that which was achieved in the first 75 years.

We have also made great progress in agriculture. In the past, we lost 700,000 feddans because of the construction of various facilities and installations. Within this 5-year plan, we have reclaimed 350,000 feddans. We have also greatly increased our production of broad beans and rice. We have succeeded in providing food for approximately 5 million people in this 5-year plan.

[Nizam al-Din] Now that the Egyptian parliamentary elections have ended uneventfully, would you comment on the tasks of the People's Assembly and your hopes regarding the relationship between the government and the opposition?

[Mubarak] I require that the People's Assembly commit itself 100 percent to national action, not to seek personal or partisan benefits but to respond to the public interest and the good of the entire Egyptian people. In every action we must consider national interests and goals. Let us now set this issue aside, as I will make a speech to the People's Assembly on 23 April.

As for the government and the opposition, I believe the task of the opposition is to closely watch [al-riqabah] government action and offer constructive criticism. If the government undertakes projects that may be flawed, the opposition must point out such flaws. It must then propose ways to remedy the mistakes. In this way we can be objective and constructive, because constructive criticism is the way to progress and advancement. Destructive criticism, on the other hand, leads to backwardness. I welcome constructive criticism.

[Nizam al-Din] What is your comment on oppositon talk of election-rigging?

[Mubarak] The propaganda campaign started long ago. Even 100 or 200 years from now we will find someone saying that elections are being rigged. This is standard. Even in today's edition of *Al-Akhbar* a writer referred to statements to be issued on this matter. But it is important to realize that we hold proper elections, in which we do not interfere. Incidents during previous elections were merely excesses committed by some individuals.

[Nizam al-Din] Last year there was talk about a coalition between the opposition parties and the government. Is this idea still viable?

[Mubarak] What coalition? This is merely talk. I merely listen. If I receive a constructive proposal I will adopt it. However, what is being said is for local consumption. Generally, I support anything that will lead to the attainment of our national goals.

[Nizam al-Din] In recent statements you said that foreign parties are behind sectarian incidents.

[Mubarak] I remarked that these incidents are foreign to the Egyptian people. I cannot, however, confirm foreign involvement. Still, Muslim and Christian have always lived together within Egyptian society. Some foreign factors have intervened to cause conflict between them in hopes that Muslim would blame Christian and vice versa. These incidents have, however, been limited. They were not large-scale events, as some foreign media portrayed them, particularly as some foreign media like to exaggerate things, portraying a conflagaration in Egypt. I was not shaken by those incidents. The people themselves stopped them. I went to Asyut and Al-Minya and walked among the people. I also went to Luxor and Qina. In fact, the Egyptian people are goodhearted, and these incidents are foreign to us. I emphasize explicitly that our situation in this respect is different from that of many other countries. We are not another Lebanon.

[Nizam al-Din] Have investigations identified the people who were attempting to provoke sectarian sedition?

[Mubarak] These people are known to us. They are all local. We do not, however, have evidence against a particular individual.

[Nizam al-Din] What about the issue of amending the Constitution. You once stated that a president's term can be renewed only once.

[Mubarak] The Egyptian Constitution has many guarantees not found in the constitutions of many other countries. [Nizam al-Din] What about the question of reelecting the president?

[Mubarak] The president... is this a problem with the Constitution? I will not touch the Constitution until all other existing problems have been resolved. Altering the Constitution means creating an uproar in the country. Is it possible for me to deceive the people and tell them to amend the Constitution? The Muslims would begin quarrelling with the Christians. There would be disagreements on the issue of free education, and the workers would quarrel with the peasants. There would be a conflagration. Existing circumstances do not permit us to do that. There are very extensive guarantees in our Constitution and this holds true whether the president serves one term or two. If the people do not want a certain person for more than one term, then he will leave. The most that a head of state in our country can serve is two terms. This is more than enough.

[Nizam al-Din] Will you choose a vice president before you start your second term in office?

[Mubarak] The Constitution does not force us to appoint a vice president. The day I find a vice president who has the necessary qualifications, I will present him to the people.

[Nizam al-Din] A case has been brought by attorney 'Abd al-Halim Ramadan before the administration's judiciary indicating that you have issued an order appointing a vice president and that this order was then placed in the safe in the office of the presidency. A decision on this case has been set for 28 April. What is your comment?

[Mubarak] How and why would I put such a decision in the safe?

[Nizam al-Din] To guard against any eventuality?

[Mubarak] Would I appoint a vice president and then keep it a secret? Why?

[Nizam al-Din] The lawyer might say that it is only natural that, when Your Excellency travels abroad, there be a second person to administer internal affairs.

[Mubarak] I will issue a decision when I want to delegate authority to a second person. I do not delegate to a second person when there are no contacts between us. When I am only 3 or 4 hours away from Egypt, I return the same day. Would it be logical to have put the decision in the safe? I hope that the jurists will come and examine the safe. Why put the decision in the safe? Is it a secret, which the people should not know? The day I decide to appoint a vice president, I will do so and I will declare it. No one in the world would say that a decision appointing a vice president of a country should be put in a safe, because it is not an issue of inheritance. Am I going to make someone my heir? Am I deciding on the inheritance of land? This is a country. It can choose what it likes. I heard of this case and was very surprised. Really, in the presidency's safe?

[Nizam al-Din] Your Excellency, on the issue of subsidies, the government's policy statements always reflect a decision not to lift the subsidies. What steps are taken as a result to handle your problems with the IMF?

[Mubarak] The subsidies are lifted only for high-income groups. Why should I subsidize a person who consumes 500 kw of electricity? He can pay more than a poor person. Thus, subsidies are withdrawn from those who are able to pay, while I subsidize low-income groups. Many articles have been written about ensuring that the subsidies reach those who need them, but when it comes to defining the needy, we find that this is the most difficult thing. Even those who have been saying this could not do it.

[Nizam al-Din] In a statement you made at the end of last year, you said that this year will be good for Egypt's economy. How so?

[Mubarak] I am very optimistic, because tourism has begun to pick up now and has become quite good, after having dropped recently as a result of various things; world terrorism and certain regrettable incidents. Oil income has also started to increase, in relative terms. We are now rescheduling our debts, which will give us more breathing space. Production is also on the rise. The effects of public sector development, the private sector's increased production, the facilities we are granting, and the elimination of red tape for exporters are all acting to boost Egypt's economy. We are on our way. The past 5 years were difficult because most of our expenditures went to our infrastructure, without which we cannot increase production or do anyting else. We have improved our factories through the infrastructure. We had factories with machines dating back to 1938. We have developed them. Infrastructure — water, electricity, and telephones — did not exist. Electricity supply was not adequate. We have built new water plants. All of these expenditures went to our infrastructure, and the return on them will not appear until after our projects get going. Thus, our past expenditures did not bring the required return because they went for services. However, production increased by the end of the 5-year plan, and it will be better in the next plan.

[Nizam al-Din] On the debt issue, has the problem with the IMF been resolved?

[Mubarak] We are near a settlement. The Central Bank governor is in the United States and the final touches to the agreement with the IMF are being made.

[Nizam al-Din] What are the most important features of the agreement, or of the current talks?

[Mubarak] It would be unreasonable to accede to the IMF's proposals, for no one would be able to implement them. We have seen examples in Tanzania, Morocco, Tunisia, and many other countries. The IMF's conditions are proposed by a group of economists who think solely in terms of the economic perspective. This does not accord with our circumstances. Political stability is a more important issue. They make conditions, and a month later they cancel them. From what I have learned of other countries' experiences, one cannot ask people to bear more than can be borne. We can deal with the people because we act to effect economic reforms in certain areas that reflect their interests. Thus, the citizens do not have to bear many heavy burdens at one time.

[Nizam al-Din] During your recent tour of Europe, did you meet with favorable responses on our problem of debts?

[Mubarak] Yes, all of Europe and the United States have been responsive.

[Nizam al-Din] And on the issue of arms?

[Mubarak] There have been no disagreements. Only the military debts to the United States are a thorny problem, because the interest on them is high. We pay 14 or 16 percent, or approximately $800 million, in annual interest on those debts. When world interest rates go down, that figure will drop to $400 million. This would give us breathing room, along with the rescheduling of our debts. We would have time to pursue our plans and increase our production. We would be able to pay our debts, which are all old. We have taken on no new loans; what we receive from America is grants.

[Nizam al-Din] Did you ask for new weapons from the United States?

[Mubarak] We have a military grant, within a plan that has been in progress for years.

[Nizam al-Din] Does the government intend to offer facilities to Egyptians working abroad?

[Mubarak] We always give them many facilities so that they can invest their funds in their home country. Egyptians now account for 75 percent of all investment in Egypt.

[Nizam al-Din] Have the remittances from Egyptian expatriates decreased or increased?

[Mubarak] They have obviously decreased, as a result of the recession that followed the drop in oil prices. We cannot deny this fact, because the drop in oil prices has affected the income of those working abroad. This is one of the issues that have burdened us over the past 2 years — it has also meant a decline in income from the Suez Canal and from tourism.

[Nizam al-Din] As an Egyptian citizen, I ask Your Excellency, given the current atmosphere of optimism, is it possible that we will see a relaxation in the country's economic life in the near future, or do we still have a year or more ahead of us?

[Mubarak] Economic problems cannot be resolved overnight; they do not last only a month or two. Economic problems are connected with long-term policies. In France, the economic crisis ran for 3 or 4 years. When we launch economic reform, we will need 3 or 4 years to bring the situation under control. If you want to remedy the economy in 24 hours, you must lift subsidies, among other things. Then the citizens finds himself under an unbearable load. The idea, then is to manage reform in calm increments, so that the citizen can absorb it. If one takes an overdose, he chokes and dies. Reforms must be implemented gradually, because this is in the citizen's interest.

[Nizam al-Din] Before we left President Husni Mubarak, bidding him farewell following a discussion that lasted more than an hour, we talked briefly about the crises in the region and the current state of disintegration in the region. The president affirmed that Egypt's stability is the best guarantee for the Arab nation. He said that Egypt is the safety valve for the region. He stressed: If anything were to happen to Egypt, the region would blow up. Repeating this three times, he pointed out the importance of maintaining political stability inside Egypt, and of ignoring rumors disseminated by certain countries.

Saddam Husayn Condemns U.S. Role in 'Joint Plot'

JN221550 Baghdad INA in English 1500 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 22, INA — President Saddam Husayn said today that the Iraqi Air Force had become a source of pride for the Iraqi Armed Forces. The president was speaking while awarding bravery medals to Air Force Commander Air-Marshal Hamid Sha'ban and a group of Iraqi pilots in acknowledgment for their bravery in defending Iraq against the Iranian aggression. Praising the standards of efficiency and accuracy reached by Iraqi pilots in hitting enemy targets, the president pointed out that the Zionist entity has become highly disturbed by the high standards achieved by Iraqi Air Force. "The dismay of the Zionists was expressed by their joint plot with U.S. quarters and Iranian officials."

Addressing the decorated pilots, the president said, "It was during the effective support our Air Force provided for Iraqi ground units in the sectors of the 3rd and 7th Iraqi Army Corps that Iraqi pilots were confronted with anti-aircraft fire intensity, but this challenge was on the level of the Iraqis' will to fight." Noting that the Iraqi pilots challenged the enemy in its own air defences in order to wreck them, the president said, "Such a state took place for the first time in the history of Arab air force. By accepting this challenge we wanted to tell the Zionists and the Americans who supplied the Iranians with these weapons to inflict harm on Iraq and Iraqi Army that we were able to wreck their weapons."

"Everyone should know that Iraq is not ready to bargain on its sanctuaries and will cut off the arm that tries to desecrate these sanctuaries," the president said.

"We know Iraq's area and we know that there are countries larger than ours but in terms of international dealings we consider our area as big as that of any other country in the world and as big as that of the largest country in the world," the president added. President Husayn said that if anybody wants to deal with us according to these principles, we are the friends of all and those who think that we might bargain or soften, if threatened, are mistaken.

The president went on to say that international relations are based on mutual respect. We do not respect a state that does not respect us, but we respect the smallest country even with a population of ten thousand and an area of five hundred sq kms. The president noted that we have friends all over the world and potentials and relations that enable us to discover plots by any country.

"The Iraqis have uncovered the Zionist plot even before the whole world had done so ... It was not a matter of Zionist-American-Iranian military relations aimed at striking a balance of power between two warring parties, but rather a support for the aggressor against Iraq in order to realize wicked goals at the expense of Iraq's sovereignty, security and dignity, and at the expense of all Arabs," President Husayn said. The president said, "Wherever Zionism becomes a partner in a conspiracy, this conspiracy becomes directed against the whole Arab nation, therefore the ongoing Zionist plot against Iraq was aimed against the Arab nation and not Iraq alone."

Referring to the conspiracy directed against Iraq involving the United States and other foreign parties including Iran, the president said, "there are thousands of evidences proving this conspiracy." The president said that he who wants to live peacefully and looks at his interests legitimately through establishing relations with peoples and nations as well as exchanging interests within the legitimate, natural and right framework, ought to rememebr that Iraq does not exist only geographically but also as a will as it does now. "This case does exist and no power can force it to retreat."

President Husayn added that anyone of the super, medium and minor powers who wants to talk about legitimate interests in the region had to recognize that Iraq still enjoys the same spirit and would keep it for hundreds of years to come. "Therefore they must respect Iraq deeply and with a sense of responsibility and must stop thinking that Iraq can be weakened by coveted attempts because Iraq cannot be American, Soviet, Chinese or French, it can only be Arab Iraq."

President Husayn said that Iraq is a friend who highly respects the French due to their attitude and it is a close friend to the Soviets due to their stand and is also a friend to the Chinese. "Iraq could become a friend to the Americans on these bases," the president said.

Air Force Chief Notes Successful Operations

Number of Missions Given

JN220715 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Apr (INA) — Lieutenant General Hamid Sha'ban, commander of Iraq's Air Force and Air Defense, has noted that Iraqi warplanes carried out 31,915 combat missions against Iranian strategic and military targets last year.

In a cable to President Saddam Husayn yesterday on the 56th anniversary of the establishment of the Iraqi Air Force and Air Defense, Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban said Iraqi aircraft have flown 11,015 combat sorties thus far this year. He continued: During the Great Harvest and Great Day battles, Iraqi warplanes went on 11,948 combat missions, pounding vital targets deep inside Iran and all across the country.

The Air Force and Air Defense commander declared that Iraqi aircraft made the ground tremble beneath the feet of enemy soldiers and scoundrels along the front and at troop assembly points. They demolished Iranian economic targets, lines of communication, and oil production and export facilities. They also downed warplanes and helicopters, hit them on the ground, and destroyed dozens of tankers, ships, and military vessels. He said the Iraqi Air Force will soon surprise the enemy with the punishment he deserves, stressing that the targets are already known and that all that need be done is issue the orders.

Links U.S., Israel to Iran

JN221732 Baghdad INA in English 1650 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Baghdad, April 22, INA — The commander of the Iraqi Air Force, Air-Marshal Hamid Sha'ban has stated that the United States and "Israel" are still supplying arms and military expertise to the Khomeyni regime in Iran.

In a statement marking the 56th founding anniversary of the Iraqi Air Force published today by the Baghdad daily *Al-Qadisiyah*, Air-Marshal Sha'ban said that some states which claim to have principles and take a neutral stand on the war and even friendship for the Arab nation, were aiding the Iranian regime.

Air-Marshal Sha'ban warned any Zionist aggression against Iraq will not pass without a deterrent punishment..our Armed Forces are prepared to retaliate with full power and destruction.

He said that Iraqi Air Force jets flew more than 30,000 combat missions on Iranian enemy targets in 1986 and more than 11.000 so far this year.

'Hot,' 'Cruel' Summer Vowed

JN221425 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1200 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Lieutenant General Sha'ban, commander of Iraq's Air Force and Air Defense, has affirmed that this summer will be hot and cruel for the rancorous Zionist Iranian enemy. He declared that our bombs will continue to chase the enemy, who will not be spared his inevitable destiny by Zionist assistance. In a statement to Baghdad radio and Voice of the Masses today on the 56th anniversary of the creation of the heroic Air Force and Air Defense, Lt Gen Sha'ban said the Iraqi Air Force is one branch of our valiant Armed Forces. It has become a strong body and a mailed fist for Iraq and the Arab nation. He said this force would not have reached this level had it not been for the continued support of the leadership of the party and revolution, headed by the builder of the glory of great Iraq, President Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Lt Gen Sha'ban explained that Iraq's growing capability in the air is admired by the forces of good in the world. This power has confronted the enemy air force, rendering it ineffective and paralyzed.

Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban talked about the role of the Air Force during our sacred, just war, saying: The activities of our Air Force include cooperation and participation with the ground and naval forces in defensive and offensive operations, and strong, direct support for our victorious units in all sectors and battles. Our Air Force activities also include strikes on economic and military targets and vital installations deep inside Iran in implementation of Iraq's blockade of Khark Island and Iranian ports. It will demolish all the pillars that hold up the enemy's war machine, and will destroy all bridges and pillars of war in the opeational areas.

Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban spoke of our brave pilots' contribution to toppling the enemy's failed slogan of the year of decisiveness. He said: When President Commander Saddam Husayn announced in the name of the people the decision to challenge the slogan of decisiveness, affirming it would be decisiveness against our enemies, our Air Force was completely ready to destroy most of the Iranian concentrations before and during the battles of the Great Day, the Great Harvest, and the Ba'th Party anniversary. This was in accordance with a fixed plan and in cooperation with all branches of our valiant Armed Forces. The Air Force has been a strong support for our victorious troops in confronting and destroying the aggression in line with our plans and the directives of the president-commander — may God preserve him — a plan which was crowned with victory for our great Iraq.

Concluding his statement, Lt Gen Hamid Sha'ban pledged to the leadership of the party and revolution headed by President Saddam Husayn that our giantic Air Force will remain prepared to win a final, decisive victory over the Iranian enemy.

Attacks on Oil Fields, Ammunition Dumps Noted

Communique No 2,649

JN221511 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1426 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,649 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. On the anniversary of the establishment of our gigantic Air Force, Iraq's long, strong, striking arm and doer of great and immortal deeds in Saddam's glorious Qadisiyah, the war of the defense of Iraq — land, people, and sovereignty — our people recall with gratitude the heroic role played by our Air Force — commanders, hawks,officers, and other ranks — when they participated with our valiant Armed Forces in all battles of honor and dignity to eliminate the enemy rogues, achieve great victories, and defeat all frustrated enemy attempts to achieve their evil intentions.

Our Air Force activities of pounding enemy military and economic targets and vital installations to prevent their use for aggression will remain immortal. We should commend the effective, active role played by the brave hawks through accurate command planning in cutting enemy oil suppies and destroying enemy oil fields and ports on Khark Island and other remote islands. This is in itself a unique use of the Air Force. God bless our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. It is enough to be honored with the satisfaction of God and the people and the praise of our great leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him.

To embody their faith in God, the homeland, and its principles, our heroic Armed Forces celebrated their great day by dealing further devastating blows to the enemies of our glorious Arab nation and our great Iraqi people — enemies represented by the rancorous, anti-Arab, despotic, Zionist Khomeyniite clique.

The valiant hawks carried out 120 combat missions today in which they wiped out great numbers of rogues, destroyed enormous amounts of their equipment and weapons, and pounded their positions over their heads.

To divest the Iranian regime of its oil resources being used for aggression against our people, the following has been achieved with the help of God:

1. At 1207 today our aircraft delivered a destructive strike against the main production unit of the Ardeshir oil field.

2. At 1654 today our aircraft delivered another destructive strike against the eastern pumping plant of the Ahvaz No 2 oil field.

Having carried out all these missions, the hawks returned safely to the homeland with their aircraft in God's care. God bless your good efforts, O men of our Air Force — commanders, hawks, officers, and other ranks. Many happy returns of the day to Iraq. You will continue to be victorious under the banner of our hero leader Saddam Husayn, may God protect him.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 April 1987

Communique No 2,650

JN221646 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1606 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Communique No 2,650 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 22 April 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious forces have continued their heroic confrontation of the remnants of aggression, inflicting further losses on the Khomeyniite rogues through their heroic activities of last night and today.

1. With daring attacks on enemy units, the heroic knights of our helicopter gunships inflicted new losses on the aggressor forces. They destroyed many enemy troop concentrations, vehicles, and weapons emplacements in 117 combat sorties. The knights of the helicopter gunships returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our courageous forces in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah inflicted the following losses on the enemy:

The destruction of two vehicles, one loaded with ammunition; the destruction of an SPG-9 gun and a heavy machine gun; the killing of two enemy soldiers; the demolition of four ammunition dumps; and the destruction of two positions.

3. An enemy tank and two vehicles loaded with personnel and ammunition were destroyed and four ammunition dumps were blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector.

4. Our brave formations on the VII Army Corps front continued their heroic activities, inflicting further losses on the enemy, in addition to the death of three enemy personnel, the destruction of an observation post and a vehicle, and the demolition of four ammunition dumps.

5. An enemy tank was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Two rogues were killed and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

7. The aggressor Zionist Khomeniite regime's forces shelled residential districts in the steadfast city of Basra with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling damaged some homes and other civilian property.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 22 April 1987

Al-Masri Assesses Amman Agreement, U.S. Policy

JN230844 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
21 Apr 87 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman — Jordanian Foreign Minister Tahir al- Masri has declared that the PLO's decision to abrogate the Amman agreement does not concern Jordan in any way.

Speaking to several Arab ambassadors and charges d'affaires at a closed meeting, Al-Masri said this accord had been overtaken by events. As such, its cancellation or continued existence is of no importance to Jordan.

Al-Masri reviewed, in the presence of Arab diplomats accredited to Jordan, the results of the recent trip which he and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i paid to Washington.

Al-Masri said: There has been no fundamental change in the U.S. Administration's attitude toward the international conference. They are playing with words by calling for "bilateral negotiations" instead of "direct" ones. As for the Jordanian delegation's request for greater American financial aid, Al-Masri said the answer was no. The U.S. Administration used the excuse that this year's foreign aid budget had already been prepared and that there was no chance of amending it, he explained.

Media Continues Coverage of PNC, Abrogation

[Editorial Report] Jordanian radio and television on 21 April continue to ignore the ongoing 18th PNC session in Algiers; neither Amman Domestic Service nor Amman Television Service have been observed to mention the proceedings. However, Amman Domestic Service in Arabic in its 1500 and 1800 GMT newscasts, and Amman Television Service in Arabic in its 1700 GMT news program carry as their lead story the Jordanian government spokesman's statement on the PLO's abrogation of the Amman accord. The statement asserts that the agreement was designed to pave the way for PLO participation in an international conference and declares that the Jordanian Government "will not allow the PLO Executive Committee's decision to be an obstacle to Arab efforts to reach a just settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict by holding an international peace conference." The declaration also notes that "the Palestinian people will continue to have the last word in all matters pertaining to their future."

Amman Domestic Service in Arabic in its 0400 GMT newscast on 22 April does not refer to the PNC session in Algiers, nor does it cite the official spokesman's statement. However, the 0415 GMT press review deals, as usual, with Amman's three Arabic dailies, all of which discuss Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

On 22 April the three Arabic dailies — *Al-Ra'y*, *Al-Dustur*, and *Sawt al-Sha'b* — as well as the English-language *Jordan Times*, carry the text of the Jordanian official spokesman's statement on the PLO's abrogation of the Amman agreement on page 1. They report on the PNC session, and comment editorially on Jordanian-Palestinian relations, stressing the strength and durability of these ties and reiterating the spokesman's assertion that the Amman agreement sought to lay the groundwork for PLO participation in an international peace conference.

Al-Ra'y in Arabic gives front-page treatment to the text of the official spokesman's statement under the following headlines: "The Official Spokesman Comments on the PLO Decision To Abrogate the Amman Agreement: The Principles of the Agreement Reflect the Special Relations Between the Two Peoples, and Will Continue to be the Light That Guides Us in Liberating the Land. We Will Not Allow the Abrogation To Hamper Efforts To Convene an International Conference. The Palestinian People Have the Final Say on Their Future."

Further down on its front page, *Al-Ra'y* publishes an approximately 1,800 word Algiers date-lined report by the *Al-Ra'y* and *Jordan Times* team Badr 'Abd al-Haq and Lamis Andoni, under the headlines: "*Al-Ra'y* Follows the Work of the PNC Session on its 2d Day; Continued Differences Over Relations With Egypt; Signs of a Split in the PFLP for Taking Part in the Session; Organizational Differences on the Formation of the PLO Executive Committee and the Number of its Members; Soviet Delegate Affirms Support for the Armed Struggle and Calls For International Conference."

Al-Ra'y, in a front page editorial entitled "The Abrogation of the Amman Agreement Does Not Mean Anything," states: "Although the Amman agreement was subjected to a great deal, and was abrogated recently, Jordan continued to be anxious to emphasize the importance of Palestinian representation through the PLO at the international conference, and the importance of the PLO having the final say on the political efforts being made to find a just and comprehensive settlement."

The paper carries no other articles or reports on the PNC session and the Amman agreement.

Al-Dustur in Arabic frontpages the text of the Jordanian official spokesman's statement under the following headlines: "Commenting on the PLO Executive Committee Decision the Official Spokesman Says: We Will Not Allow the Abrogation of the Amman Agreement To Obstruct Arab Efforts for Peace." Further down on the same page, *Al-Dustur* carries a 200-word Algiers date-lined report on the PNC session, promising more details on Page 22, under the following headlines: "Hard Behind-the-Scenes Bargaining Over the Resolutions and Recommendations; Three Issues Preoccupy the PNC; Creation of 'A Leadership Task Force' Within the PLO Executive Committee Discussed." The paper devotes a large part of Page 22 to reports on the 2d day of the PNC session in Algiers. According to a dispatch from Algiers by Hamadah Fara'inah, Sana' al-'Alul, and Nabil 'Amr, the talks among Fatah, PFLP, DFLP, and Palestinian Communist Party leaders center on relations with Egypt, ties with Syria, and the reallocation of portfolios on the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council.

Al-Dustur on page 1 carries an editorial emphasizing the strong fraternal and historic Jordanian-Palestinian ties, citing the official spokesman's statement and reiterating that the Amman agreement was intended to prepare for the international peace conference. The 600-word editorial concludes: "The official spokesman's statement, which was prompted by a sense of responsibility and a spirit of concern, highlights the special political mark that characterized Jordan in the past decades and produced its national stands, particularly toward the Palestinian question, which for Jordan is a very special national cause and daily concern."

Sawt Al-Sha'b in Arabic frontpages the text of the Jordanian oficial spokesman's statement under the following banner headlines: "Statement by the Official Spokesman on the PLO's Abrogation of the Amman Agreement: The Palestinian People Have the Final Say; The Principles of the Agreement will Continue to Guide Our Moves to Liberate the Land and Regain the Rights; We will Not Allow the PLO Decision to Obstruct Efforts for a Just Settlement."

On the lower part of its front page, *Sawt al-Sha'b* carries a 2,000-word Algiers date-lined report, continued on page 21, on the proceedings of the PNC session, under the following headlines: "Heated Debates at the PNC Meetings; A Draft Resolution on a PLO Collective Leadership; The New Composition of the PLO Executive Committee and Central Council." Referring to the discussions at the PNC session, the paper says: "There was no great opposition to the abrogation of the Amman agreement. Various quarters have stated that work has been going on for a year to cancel the accord."

Al-Dustur comments editorially on the abrogation of the Amman agreement, emphasizing the special relationship between the Jordanian and Palestinian people and asserting that the Palestinians have the last word on matters connected with their cause.

Amman *Jordan Times* in English also frontpages the text of the Jordanian spokesman's statement, under the following headline: "Jordan: Abrogation of Feb 11 Accord will Not Block Efforts For International Talks." The paper also carries, on pages 1 and 3, an Algiers-datelined report by Lamis Andoni and Badr 'Abd al-Haq on the discussions during the second day of the PNC session, under the headline: "Ties With Egypt Return to Center-Stage at PNC."

The *Jordan Times* in English on page 4 publishes an editorial on the Jordanian spokesman's statement on the PLO's abrogation of the Amman agreement, and says: "Jordan did well to make clear yesterday that the abrogation of the Feb. 11 accord by the PLO would not affect the special and brotherly relations between Jordanians and Palestinians." The piece notes there is no point in mourning the past, for a new situation exists today. The paper concludes: "The onus is on the PLO now to seek ways in which the search for a settlement can be restarted and concluded on the basis enunciated by Arab summits and UN resolutions. Jordan, as the government made clear yesterday, is ready to help our Palestinian brethren in every way we can."

The Amman weekly *Al-Liwa'* in Arabic on 22 April, on pages 1 and 25, carries the text of the Jordanian spokesman's statement under the headline: "A Statement by the Official Spokesman on the Jordanian-Palestinian Agreement." The paper carries no other reports or comment on the Amman agreement or the PNC session in Algiers.

Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic in its 1400-1500 GMT transmission on 21 April carries the text of the Jordanian official spokesman's statement, and in its 0900-1000 GMT transmission on 22 April carries a review of the Jordanian press on the spokesman's statement and the abrogation of the Amman agreement, but does not carry any reports on the PNC session or debates.

House Speaker Al-Fayiz Leaves for Iraq

JN221952 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] 'Akif al-Fayiz, speaker of the House of Representatives and chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, left Amman this evening on an official visit to the Republic of Iraq at the invitation of Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly.

In a statement to PETRA-JNA, Al-Fayiz said his trip will include a meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and talks with Dr Hammadi on Arab parliamentary issues, fraternal bilateral relations, and various questions of common interest.

Israeli Gunboat Sighted Off Southern Coast

NC221223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] An Israeli gunboat has been seen since this morning at a medium distance off the Al-Rumaylah-al-Awwali coast, patrolling the area and blockading the port of Sidon. Reports from the western Al-Biqa' note that Israeli reinforcements were arriving in the Al-'Ayshiyah and Jazzin areas.

Israelis Reconnoiter Sidon Camps

NC221451 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] According to security reports from the south, Israeli warplanes have been flying for some time over the east Sidon area, particularly over the Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps. They have come under antiaircraft fire.

Israelis Raid Sidon Camps

NC230449 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] The Israeli enemy carried out air strikes against southeastern Sidon and the camps located there at midnight. Enemy jets and helicopters dropped numerous flares and used air-to-surface missiles in their attacks.

Israeli Helicopters Attack

NC230505 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli helicopters raided the Palestinian camps of Al-Miyah Wa Miyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah east of Sidon last night. Israeli jets conducted a great many flights during the attack, and Israeli gunboats cruised off Sidon.

3 People Wounded

NC230634 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Israeli warplanes raided the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miya Wa Miya [Palestinian] camps shortly before midnight yesterday. Israeli planes also conducted intensive overflights of the Sidon region between Al-Awwali and Al-Zahrani, dropping flares. Israeli gunboats were spotted off Sidon.

According to security reports, the raid left three people wounded. Palestinian gunmen and members of the Nasirite Popular Organization have been put on alert. A Palestinian source in Sidon expects further Israeli raids against Palestinian positions in the area. [passage omitted]

AFP has reported that the raid included targets in Jabal al-Halib, Darb al-Sim, and Mariya. The news agency cited a spokesman for George Habash's PFLP as saying that the Palestinian camps had been subjected to an indiscriminate bombardment.

Israelis Drop Leaflets

NC230920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Enemy aircraft dropped leaflets over the city of Al-Nabatiyah today. The leaflets warned residents of the south that stiff measures will be taken by the Israeli occupation forces to put an end to the escalating commando operations.

Meanwhile, enemy aircraft have been carrying out mock raids since this morning over Sidon, the camps, and other areas in the south. They were met by antiaircraft fire.

Israeli Warship Off Sidon

NC231002 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0950 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] According to security reports received a short while ago, a large Israeli warship has been seen at some distance off Sidon. The ship, which is escorted by two boats, is heading north.

Two Explosions Reported in West Beirut 22 Apr

NC221234 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] An explosive charge went off in a garbage dump in the Ard Jallul section of West Beirut's Al-Tariq al-Jadidah district at 1320 today. Security sources have not yet reported any casualties. The weight of the charge is not known. A gas cylinder exploded in a depot belonging to Hassan Nasrallah in the Verdun area at 0930, causing material damage.

Group Claims RPG Attack on Syrian Checkpoint

NC221309 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] An anonymous person contacted Radio Free Lebanon a short time ago on behalf of the Abna' Kityan 'Ali group of the Lebanese Liberation Front. He claimed that his organization was responsible for planting a bomb near and firing RPG-7's at a Syrian checkpoint in the vicinity of the Al-Dana station at 1315 today. He also said there were casualties. However, none of this has been confirmed by security sources.

Beirut Crossing Closed After Soldiers Wounded

NC221820 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Security was disrupted this afternoon along the Science College-Al-'Amrusiyah combat lines after Army Lieutenant Ta'am Nassar and another soldier were injured by fire from antiaircraft guns. Tanks and rockets were used in the ensuing fighting. The clashes spread to Tallat Hunayn and Al-Murayjah. Antiaircraft fire was also directed at Al-Hadath, and the tension spread to the Bsaba-Al-Ma'rufiyah axes. Things cooled down somewhat at 1730 following a cease-fire agreement. However, a number of antiaircraft shells fell in Al-Hazimiyah at 1845.

Our correspondent has learned from reliable security sources that, in light of growing sniper activity and abductions, the Army command has decided to close the Al-Kafa‘at-al-Murayjah crossing point as of 1800 today until further notice. Sniper fire and occasional artillery shelling in the vicinity of this crossing had caused confusion in the area.

Snipers Kill Sergeant

NC221946 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The Army Command has decided to close the Al-Kaf‘at-al-Murayjah crossing point until further notice following increased sniper activity there and the death of Army Sergeant Antanyus ‘Aflaq and the serious wounding of another officer.

A military source made the following statement a short while ago: Security was disrupted at 1700 today along the contact lines near the Science College and the Al-Kafat‘at checkpoint, when armed men suddenly opened fire on Army personnel manning the checkpoint. This resulted in the martyrdom of a sergeant from the 9th Brigade and the wounding of two officers, one seriously. Several soldiers were also injured. These attacks were preceded by sniper activity from positions opposite the checkpoint. The Al-Kafa‘at-Al-Murayjah crossing point has been closed until further notice. The central security committee has been informed of the closure so that it may determine another means of passage safe for both civilians and soldiers.

General Strike Called by Trade Unions Observed

NC230818 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Traffic came to a halt and shops, institutions, schools, and universities were closed today in solidarity with a general strike called by the Trade Union Federation.

Resistance Hits Lahd Position; Car Bomb Explodes

NC221835 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1800 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The Lebanese resistance group Amal has announced that one of its groups used Katyusha rockets to shell one of agent Lahd's positions in ‘Ayn Ibil at 1815 today. The rockets hit their targets, and an ambulance was seen entering the position to evacuate the wounded. A statement from the resistance said this operation was in retaliation for Israel's shelling of peaceful villages in the south.

According to a report received a short while ago from the south, a booby-trapped Volvo exploded at 1825 today in (?Humin). Three people were injured and taken to Jabal ‘Amil Hospital in Tyre for treatment.

Sham‘un Meets With Al-Hashim, Responds to Birri

NC221120 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1045 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] Following his meeting this morning with Minister Joseph al-Hashim, former President Camille Sham‘un said: We reviewed the issues that may be discussed at tomorrow's ministerial meeting, and our views were identical.

As to whether the Muslim ministers would be briefed on the results of the session, Sham‘un said: That is not necessary.

Asked to comment on Minister Birri's statement that the ministerial meeting will be a waste of time, Sham‘un replied: In our view, the goal of this session is to complete our task. We do not intend to waste time. However, if Minister Birri wants to waste time, he is free to do so, and is in any case responsible for any failure. [passage omitted]

USSR Offers Government Results of Aerial Survey

NC230910 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0615 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Our radio has learned that the Soviet Union has officially informed Lebanon that it is ready to provide the latter with photographs, taken from three Soviet spacecraft, showing all parts of the country.

According to diplomatic sources, the Soyuz spacecraft conducted a survey of the whole of Lebanon, while two other spacecraft produced photographs covering only 60 percent of Lebanese territory. The same sources added that Moscow had noted the importance of this survey, which provides information on Lebanon's natural wealth, oil and gas exploration prospects, geology, and water resources. The results of this survey could be of assistance in a topographical assessment of land that could be reclaimed and in studies related to natural resources and environmental protection. The Soviet Union has expressed its willingness to make these aerial photographs available to Lebanon, along with technical data, and to send a delegation of experts to Lebanon to intepret the pictures. The Soviet Union did not, however, indicate when this aerial survey was conducted.

TISHRIN on Al-Asad's 'Important Visit' to USSR

JN221450 Damascus SANA in Arabic
1130 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Damascus, 22 Apr (SANA) — *Tishrin* notes that President Hafiz al-Asad's visit to Moscow takes on special importance in light of the present circumstances and situation. The results of the trip will be great and in the service of the joint struggle, Arab and world liberation movements, and popular causes. In today's editorial under the headline "An Important Visit," *Tishrin* adds: Syrian-Soviet efforts for an international peace conference leading to a firm peace in the Middle East will continue. At the same time, the work of Syria and the Soviet Union will keep on confronting U.S.-Israeli maneuvers to empty an international conference of its real content.

Tishrin says: The USSR praises Syria's pan-Arab and humanitarian initiative to help our kinfolk in Lebanon. The USSR hailed the entry of Syrian forces. The Syrian troops saved Beirut from inevitable destruction and foiled divisive plans.

Tishrin declares: The Soviets followed Syria's intensive efforts in Lebanon with great appreciation. After all, its work is part of a higher pan-Arab policy to safeguard the Arab homeland from imperialist and Zionist schemes. The paper says: The imperialists have struggled recently to brand Syria with the stigma of terrorism and to mobilize the world public against it in an obvious attempt to undermine its stands. Syria then announced that it condemned blind terrorism, but will continue to strongly support the struggle of national liberation forces against occupation, racism, and imperialism.

Tishrin concludes: This daring, persistent, and firm position was appreciated by the USSR, which exposed the imperialist and Zionist games and persistent maneuvers to terrorize and divert people from their national policy.

Al-Asad Receives Saudi Prince, Fahd Message

JN221435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] At 1345 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Prince Faysal ibn Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, general director of the Youth Welfare Directorate in Saudi Arabia. Prince Faysal gave the president a message from King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The president asked the Saudi prince to convey a reply to King Fahd.

Khaddam Receives Lebanese House Speaker

JN191317 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met today with Husayn al-Husayni, speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. The two men discussed the Lebanese situation and contacts made on this matter. Both agreed on the need for continued efforts to achieve national reconciliation and deliver Lebanon from its suffering.

The vice president voiced Syria's continuous support for all efforts leading to reconciliation and stability in Lebanon, as well as those designed to end the Lebanese people's suffering, tragedies, and difficult living conditions as a result of the abnormal situation there.

Husayn al-Husayni spoke of the contacts made, and expressed his appreciation for Syria's work under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad to help Lebanon surmount its crisis through national reconciliation and the return of security and stability to Lebanon as a whole.

Khaddam Meets Sudan's Al-Banna in Damascus

JN191815 Damascus Television Service in Arabic
1730 GMT 19 Apr 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam met with Sudanese State Council Deputy Chairman Idris al-Banna during his stopover at Damascus International Airport at noon today. Talks during the meeting focused on the latest developments in the Arab world.

Al-Banna made a statement to a SANA correspondent in which he hailed the solid, firm, and fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries of Syria and Sudan. He said: The meetings between Syrian and Sudanese officials are part of the prcoess of coordination on issues of interest to both brotherly countries and the Arab nation. He added: We in Sudan view Syria's role in confronting imperialism and Zionism as pioneering and effective. We in Sudan believe that if its contribution is not solid and strong, there will be no move to solve the problems of the Arab nation.

Peres: Conference 'Corridor' to Peace

TA221922 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1835 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister, by Elimelekh Ram, Yig'al Goren, and anchorman Yoram Ronen — live in the studio on the weekly "Moqed" program]

[Excerpts][Ronen] Good evening. Has the unity government been squeezed dry? Will the international conference be the pretext for the dissolution of the government? And is this government not two, speaking in two voices? These are some of the questions we intend to put to Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. We are Elimelekh Ram, Yig'al Goren, and myself. Good evening, Mr Peres.

[Peres] A very good evening.

[Ronen] Today former chief of staff Refa'el Eytan proposed taking military action in Lebanon. Either this, he said, or the government should decide to evacuate the Galilee. In your opinion, have we gone back to the situation that existed before the Lebanon war?

[Peres] Heaven forbid. When we were in Lebanon the price paid for security was much higher. When we left Lebanon after being there we left a Lebanon that was worse than when we entered it. There is no need to enter Lebanon. There is no need to evacuate the Galilee. Of course we cannot prevent a katyusha from falling every now and then or, sometimes, something worse than that. However, we are altogether deployed in the most suitable way for the defense of the north of Israel.

[Ronen] Will we have to live with the katyushas for a long time yet?

[Peres] I hope we will be able to prevent them, as far as possible. None of us can guarantee a complete closure.

[Goren] But Sir, do you see a new situation in the Galilee, one we can cope with effectively in the short range, in the foreseeable future?

[Peres] In the situation that now exists in Lebanon and the Gailee, we are deployed in the best way. We must also remember that the terrorists paid quite a heavy price. The attack on the two positions, one of the Southern Lebanese Army [SLA] and the other of the IDF, apparently ended with 21 dead from the Hizballah and there may have been Fatah members there also. There is no doubt that over the past few days the Fatah has been making a supreme effort to underline its destructive existence, but it also has problems. It, too, has very weak points and if it continues, it will also have to pay for them

[Ram] Sir, we also have weak points, if we think about the price we paid, which is not cheap at all.

[Peres] What price are you speaking of?

[Ram] I am speaking of the boys who fell.

[Peres] What a question! This is the highest price we can pay. But the two boys who sacrificed their lives by storming the three terrorists prevented heavy tragedies in the Galilee and enabled the Gailee to live a calmer life, a Galilee which was filled with visitors. This also happens elsewhere.

[Goren] Mr Peres, in contrast to this, it is not calm in the territories, either. You attribute this to the deliberations of the PNC, while your opponents are saying that what is causing the riots is the willingness you are exhibiting to make positions more flexible and go to an international conference.

[Peres] Since you are speaking in the name of my opponents, explain to me what the link is — like you, I would like to understand — between an international conference and an increase in terrorism? I hear situation evaluations by the intelligence service. I hear situation evaluations by other experts. All of them, without exception, are saying the intensification of the terrorist activity originates with the PNC, which wants to do what the French call a tour de force [last three words in French], a demonstration of power. What is the connection between this and the international conference? Did the PLO not act in the territories before the idea of the international conference? Were people not murdered, to my great regret, in Jerusalem, in the territories; there were attempted attacks in Kafr Saba itself. Is what is happening to us something new?

[Ram] Mr Peres, you sounded very optimistic recently about the chances of the international conference, while the Americans are also very skeptical, I would say. If you would permit me to remind you of remarks we heard today, the testimony of Richard Murphy, who said the United States is prepared to try an international conference despite the risk that it would in fact be a stage for groundless rhetoric.

[Peres] First of all, permit me to amend the quotation you attribute to Richard Murphy. He said a constant international conference would turn into theater and speeches. In contrast to this, reaching direct negotiations through an international opening would further peace. In addition to this, he expressed his hope that the bilateral negotiations would begin even before 1988. He even gave dates. So, if you are quoting, quote correctly. Now, excuse me, I must explain this: I am not working for an international conference. That is an error. I am working for direct negotiations between us and Jordan. Yesterday we had an agreement with Egypt; today or tomorrow we should reach an agreement with Jordan. Jordan has problems. You can also see what is happening in Algeria. It is aimed against Jordan no less than against Israel. Jordan wants the opening to the negotiations to be done through an international forum. By the way, this is also what happened with Egypt. And, despite what they are saying, that they are not prepared to play this role or another, the Russians went to Geneva, all they did was to hear a speech and go home. Furthermore, do not forget the Russians permitted the Syrians to sign an interim agreement with us in 1974 without their participation.

[Ronen] Mr Peres, do you see Jordan joining an international conference without the PLO? Do you see the Soviet Union joining an international conference without the PLO?

[Peres] First of all, I am speaking of an international opening. They are not the same. I see Jordan entering into direct negotiations after an international opening, and I am saying this with certainty.

[Goren] Without any connection with the PLO?

[Peres] Without any connection with the PLO. Whoever wants a connection with the PLO has to have a connection with war, with terrorism, with violence, with opposition, with rejectionism.

[Goren] Do the Jordanians also say that?

[Peres] First of all, why should we speak in the name of the Jordanians? The Jordanians understand what I understand. It was not without reason that the PLO decided to cancel its agreement, the existing agreement between it and Jordan. There is no doubt that there must be Palestinian representatives. What are the differences here? The PLO wants a Palestinian state of its own. The PLO wants a delegation of its own. The PLO wants the Russians to impose their will on us at an international conference. I say a specific, momentous no to all this. No to a Palestinian state. No to a PLO, separate Palestinian delegation. Nobody will coerce us. We will not go to a conference where anyone tries to coerce us whatsoever. Now, the Jordanians understand this very well. A propos [last two words in French] the Soviets and the Jordanians, listen: We all have to decide. We are all — you, me, and many others — dealing with the world of yesterday. Is there or is there not a different situation in the world? To this we must provide an answer. Is there Russia in another situation or not?

[Ronen] I am going back to the Soviet Union, to the Soviets, if I may. I would like to remind you, and you have undoubtedly also heard an updated report on Shultz' talks in Moscow, of a report that has arrived. The report says that the Russians will not be content with a conference in name only; will not be content with an opening in name only; and they are demanding that they have full involvement in negotiations. In view of this quite intransigent Soviet stand, do you think you can soon, as you say, make a proposal for an international conference that is acceptable both to the Russians and the Americans?

[Peres] I do not work as a contractor. I have also spoken with the Soviets. By the way, what you say about them demanding involvement, that is all just words. The Soviets told me they are against a conference of coercion. They understand. That is what they told me, that in any case an imposed solution would not last. Furthermore, there is no chance of imposing a solution on us. What are we, lunatics? For the Soviet Union to impose a solution on us?

[Goren] But, Mr Peres, who is promising us that as soon as an international conference begins, such countries as the Soviet Union will not change their minds and take advantage of that stage in order to impose....

[Peres, interrupting] Excuse me, what will they do? Tie us to the chairs?

[Goren] But the very fact of our commitment to enter....

[Peres, interrupting] We have no commitment. We will not enter into an international conference that tries to impose or to impose a veto. Anyone who tries, we will say, thank you very much, it was not to such a conference that we came, and we will go home. But it is not just us. The United States holds the same view. After all, what Shultz and we are saying, what Reagan and we are saying, is that the goal is direct negotiations, not an international conference. An international conference is a short, temporary door or corridor. We have to go into a direct conference, direct negotiations, just as happened with Egypt. Whoever objected to the agreement with Egypt will now also oppose an agreement with Jordan

[Ram] But Mr Peres, you recently met with Soviet representatives in Europe. Can you honestly say that they will be prepared to act solely as an umbrella, or solely as an opening, or leave the scene for direct negotiations without intervention, without influence?

[Peres] Look, the Russians told me, I can tell you what they told me: They said we are not proceeding in the old style. It is true that the previous positions remain, but there is openness. They are prepared to talk about everything with us. They told me: We do not mean an imposed conference; we understand you would not come, and we do understand that an imposed solution would not be acceptable. At the same time, we still have an argument with the Russians. I am not automatically saying that the Soviet Union will come. We have two conditions regarding the Russians. By the way, we have them, so do the Americans. One is to renew diplomatic relations and the second — and we told the Russians that the second is the most important — is to change the attitude toward the Jews and permit them to come to Israel. [passage omitted]

[Ronen] Mr Peres, you have just given us an interesting historical review, yet I suggest that we move ahead. I would like to ask you a specific question: When do you intend to present the Cabinet with a proposal on the international conference? Does it depend on your trip to the United States in a few weeks?

[Peres] It has nothing to do with my trip to the United States. During previous interviews, I said that there are three major obstacles on the road, not to an international conference -- I want you to remember that these are direct negotiations. It is a waste of your time trying to dwell on something that is nonexistent.

[Ronen] Direct negotiations that would be launched by way of an international conference.

[Peres] Direct negotiations that will open in an international conference that has no power to determine things. [to Ronen] You raised your eyebrow in skepticism, but for no reason whatsoever. This is no way to do business with me, or with anyone for that matter. [laughter] I say the following: No one will ever force anything on us. Of these three obstacles, I believe we have overcome at least one, perhaps two. Furthermore, I believe that the issue of non-PLO representation has become a must for Jordan and an issue that will, moreover, also be supported by Syria.

What is currently underway in Algeria in fact removes the PLO representation from the Jordanian-Palestinian context. I believe, furthermore, that there is also a broad and deep concensus regarding the nature of the international opening and its immediate follow-up in the form of direct negotiations.

[Ram] So let me rephrase it: When will you bring this proposal to the Cabinet?

[Peres] I hope it will not take too long, although I would not like to commit myself to a deadline. Let me just tell you this: The way I see it, the matter must be settled this year. If we do not finish it this year, we will see [illegible] years in which not only will nothing happen, but there will be an escalation in the threats and a deterioration in relations.

I want to tell you that I know that the road to peace is very difficult. But what are the others offering? I am not impressed by any speech made on whatever occasion by any partisan functionary. I recall the speeches that were made on peace with Egypt, even later speeches on economic matters. The people want and need peace. This is terribly difficult to obtain, because by peace we mean a peace that does not involve capitulation or a return to the 1967 lines, one that will not involve dictates. On the basis of the knowledge I have — and I am aware of the fact that right now I may sound optimistic, but I cannot divulge everything I know — that we have never been as close to the opening of direct negotiations between us and another country that is not Egypt on the central issue lying at the basis of the Jewish-Arab conflict. We must do this. We owe it to the citizens of Israel, to Israeli mothers, to the youth, and to the soldiers. This is the major topic. No skepticism or ridicule will help here. [passage omitted]

Likud Opposition Reiterated

TA221645 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The Likud ministers have repeated their absolute opposition to the idea of an international conference. At a discussion held this afternoon in the prime minister's residence, the ministers rejected the idea of the conference as set forth in Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' plan.

No Message Received Canceling USSR Consular Trip

TA210453 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
21 Apr 87 p 1

[Report by the diplomatic correspondent and agencies]

[Text] Israel has received no messages from the Soviet Union either cancelling the prospective Soviet consullar visit to Israel or expressing a renewed interest in carrying it out, Foreign Ministry sources said last night.

The ministry sources were commenting on news agency reports from Kuwait quoting a senior Soviet official as saying that Moscow has cancelled the prospective consular delegation's visit to Israel.

Speaking on Sunday at a news conference at the close of a four-day visit to Kuwait, the first stop on a tour of the Gulf region, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said that Moscow had cancelled the visit because Israel had used the trip for propaganda.

Petrovskiy also said Moscow did not plan to re-establish ties with Israel unless Israel withdrew from territory conquered in 1967.

"Our relationship will not resume until Israel announces its withdrawal from all occupied Arab countries, and announces its agreement to an international peace conference," he said.

Ministry sources said that the text of the Soviet official's remarks had not yet reached Jerusalem nor had any message to the same effect, so it was "difficult" to react.

From Israel's point of view, the sources added, the situation remained as it was following the meeting in Washington a month ago between Israeli Ambassador Me'ir Rosenne and the Soviet Embassy's charge d'affaires in Washington. At that meeting the Soviets expressed an interest in sending such a delegation to look over Soviet property holdings in Israel.

Petrovskiy was quoted as saying yesterday in Abu Dhabi that the international peace conference was unlikely to be held in 1987, but might possibly take place next year.

Soviets Deny Cancellation

TA211309 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1300 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennadiy Gerasimo has denied the Soviet authorities have decided to cancel the consular delegation's visit to Israel. In his daily briefing in Moscow Gerasimov said the tickets had not yet been purchased, the visa requests had not yet been submitted, but the visit had not been canceled. He did not go into detail.

Yesterday Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovskiy said the consular delegation's visit had been canceled because Israel has taken advantage of it for propaganda purposes.

Possible Postponement

TA221120 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 22 Apr 87 p 3

[Report by Ilan Kfir, Pe'erli Shahar, Ze'ev Ofiri, and AP (Moscow)]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The contradictory statements [regarding the visit of the Soviet consular delegation to Israel] by the two Soviet officials, Gerasimov and Petrovskiy, were received with surprise in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem, where officials are awaiting messages from Moscow regarding the continuation of the contacts. Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ehud Gol said: "With the Soviets, the locale where the statement is made is always significant. The statement from Moscow may be more significant than what Petrovskiy said in Kuwait, which was meant to please the Arabs." Jerusalem assesses that the visit of the Soviet consular delegation has not been canceled, although it may indeed be postponed indefinitely. Soviet affairs experts believe that if there will indeed be a postponement, it would be a result of strong pressure from the Arab states.

Hadashot has learned that the Kremlin has recently sent senior envoys to Arab capitals in order to pacify the Arabs regarding the rumored political rapprochement with Israel. Diplomatic sources say that the Soviet envoys briefed the Arab leaders on their intention to promote the idea of an international conference, and in this framework to examine the possiblity of a dialogue with Israel.

Speaking on this issue yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said: "We have not received any information from the Soviets regarding the cancellation of the visit of the consular delegation. However, the recent Soviet statements are regrettable." Shamir also reacted to reports from Moscow claiming that U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz met with "crazy" Jews, saying: "I was particularly hurt by what Gorbachev said about Shultz. Shultz made a great good-will gesture, and despite this these things were said about him."

Minister Conveys Peres Message to Egyptians

TA221027 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Israeli Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin conveyed verbal messages from Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to the Egyptian prime minister and foreign minister. Minister Nehamkin arrived in Egypt today on a 5-day visit at the invitation of the Egyptian deputy prime minister and agriculture and food security minister. The Israeli Agriculture Ministry believes the invitation reflects Egypt's desire to tighten agricultural relations with Israel. The agriculture minister will visit farms that are managed by Israelis.

Argentine Counterpart Thanks Peres for Support

TA210913 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
21 Apr 87 p 3

[Report from Jerusalem by the political correspondent]

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo has expressed his government's deep appreciation for Israel's show of support for his country, as expressed in the message sent to him by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres late last week. Caputo approached the Israeli ambassador in Buenos Aires and told him that international support for President Raul Alfonsin's administration is most essential these days, and asked him to relay his gratitude to the Israeli Government and to Peres. The dispatch of the message has won wide media coverage in Argentina. Peres' upcoming visit to Buenos Aires next month is also accorded major headlines.

Editorials View Tension in North, Territories

TA220647 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1330 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Review of morning press editorials]

[Excerpts] *Ha'aretz* says that the increasing clashes between the IDF and the Palestinian terrorist organizations in themselves should not prevent the continuation of the political efforts to solve the Palestinian problem. The chances for this apparently depend most of all on how Jordan and Egypt react to the renewed agressiveness of the PLO. The northern border is our main point of concern from the security point of view, but the political decisions might be made in Amman and Cairo.

Hatzofe believes we can expect a hot summer on the northern border. This will force Israel to take real steps to foil the schemes of the PLO leader and his band of murderers. The recent events will also require changes in the international political arena in order to prove what we already know — that not only has the PLO not changed, but neither has King Husayn. [passage omitted]

The Jerusalem Post writes that the PLO or the Palestinians it purports to represent do not understand, but the United States does understand, that if violence is again to become the currency of dialogue in the region, Israel will not fail for eloquence. That realization alone should link Israel, the United States, Jordan, and the sensible representatives of the Palestinians in concerted effort.

Davar says Israel should embrace a policy combining wisdom with firmness — a policy which foils murderous attacks but also punishes those who kidnap children as retaliation for stone-throwing. Chief of Staff Dan Shomron in his first days in office must already examine the situation in the territories. We can rely on him to try to use the least possible military measures there. However, Prime Minister Shamir is scheduled to visit the territories this week. It must be hoped that he will not use extremist rhetoric to inflame the situation there, which is tense enough as it is. [passage omitted]

AL-FAJR Calls on PNC To Declare Clear Positions

TA220413 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English
19 Apr 87 p 5

[Editorial: "PLO Unity Is a First Step"]

[Text] After almost four years of divisiveness, splits, infighting, and mutual accusations, the leaders of the Palestinian national movement are again sitting together and working hard to seek common ground. While the years of internal disputes have been very difficult on the Palestinian people, the unity of the PLO will not of its own solve all our problems.

During the past years, and possibly as a result of our disunity, Israel has continued its oppression of our people in the occupied territories, in Lebanon, and even in Tunis, almost completely unchecked. Certain Arab leaders have declared open war against the PLO, its present leadership, and those who support it. Palestinian camps have been attacked, besieged and starved by pro-Syrian Lebanese militias. The Arab world has remained apathetic to the plight of the Palestinians in these camps. Another Arab leader has hosted Israeli officials, including the Israeli prime minister, offering them Moroccan red-carpet treatment; and the Egyptian president has agreed to Peres' special conditions for an international conference.

While these Arab leaders have met publicly with Israeli officials, other Arab leaders to the east of Palestine have conspired secretly with the Israelis to reduce the influence of PLO supporters and to share power and decision-making about life in the occupied territories with the representatives of the occupiers.

The weakness of the PLO as a result of the splits was not only experienced outside Palestine. Here in the occupied territories division became the norm. We have now four parallel labor unions, and a similar number of women's organizations and federations of voluntary committees. We have two parallel artists unions, two writers unions, three lawyers unions — and the list goes on. It is no surprise, then, that the demand for the unity of the Palestinian movement has become the number one demand of all sincere Palestinians. But we will not be satisfied by the PLO leaders simply kissing and making up. A lot of hard work needs to be done.

To begin with, the Palestinian leadership must make an honest and tough critique of the events of the past; of our position at the present; and of where we want to go from here. This critique should include an assessment of the events in Tripoli; the differences between the PLO leadership and Syria; the Amman agreement; and the camp wars. A sharp and candid analysis needs to be made of the Jordanian Development Plan; the West Bank municipal appointments; the assassination of Zafir al-Masri; and the most recent Palestinian- Israeli statement, signed by Abba Eban, Hanna Sinyurah, and others.

In its assessment of our present condition, the PLO will have to declare its position regarding the international conference. The PLO must indicate where it stands regarding Palestinian participation in the conference: Does it favor a separate PLO delegation? A joint delegation with a certain Arab country? A joint Arab delegation? Does the PLO approve of the participation of non-PLO members as delegates? Also, the PLO will have to decide its position regarding the power and duration of the conference.

Other issues also beg to be addressed by the PNC members. One is the creation of a collective leadership that will provide for the input of all factions within the PLO. This has to be studied carefully, so that the collective leadership will not paralyze the political movement necessary to find a solution to the Palestinian problem.

Relations between the PLO and the Soviet Union would have to be strengthened; and the relationship between the PLO and progressive Israeli forces would have to be given a push forward, so that Palestinians and progressive Israelis could work together to seek an end to the Israeli occupation.

Palestinians in the occupied territories are anxiously awaiting the convening of a strong and united Palestine National Council. We expect the Palestinian leadership to use this occasion to learn from the mistakes of the past; plan for the strategies of the future, and put all its power into making these strategies work.

CEAO, ANAD Summits Open in Nouakchott 20 Apr

AB210854 Paris AFP in French 0717 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (AFP) — The 12th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) opened in Nouakchott yesterday. Among those present were five heads of state (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Mauritania) and representatives of the presidents of Senegal and Niger.

Also declared open on the occasion was the eighth summit of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement (ANAD), which groups the CEAO member-states and Togo, represented by its foreign minister.

Guinea, which is represented by Abou Camara, its secretary of state for labor, and Togo are attending the CEAO summit as observers.

Opening the CEAO summit, the Mauritanian head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, who is the CEAO's current chairman, said the restructuring of the community would be finalized during the session. This restructuring, he pointed out, seeks to strengthen the community's credibility and give it new momentum. Deliberations were suspended after the reading of messages from the guests, in particular those countries and organizations that are financial backers of CEAO projects. The meeting will resume this morning behind closed doors. Col Taya gave an official dinner party yesterday evening in honor of the participants.

Mauritania's Taya Opens Summit

AB211257 Dakar PANA in French 1056 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (PANA) — The 12th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) and the 8th summit of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement (ANAD) between the CEAO member-states and Togo were opened yesterday afternoon in the Mauritanian capital by the current chairman of both groups, Mauritanian President Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya.

Briefing the heads of state and government of the member-countries on the results achieved during his mandate, the Mauritanian head of state listed the priority sectors as defined by the 11th CEAO summit in Ouagadougou: mastering water resources and the techniques of producing renewable energy sources, restoring the socioeconomic and ecological balance, and improving agricultural output.

The current CEAO chairman described the community as an "instrument for development and the hope of 40 million people, who have pooled their creative energies for the struggle against underdevelopment."

The Mauritanian head of state also disclosed that virtually all the priority projects are being implemented effectively and specified that the Community Development Fund and the Regional Cooperation Tax are the most significant examples of the community's accomplishments.

Going into greater detail on the ANAD's importance, its chairman stated that "the establishment and consolidation of regional and subregional groupings require an atmosphere of peace and security." [passage omitted]

The opening session was also attended by Mahtar M'Bow, the UNESCO director general; Auguste Mpassi-Muba, director general of the *Pan-African News Agency*; and representatives of the UN and OAU secretaries general and other organizations involved in projects sponsored by the CEAO.

Summit Agenda Discussed

AB211858 Paris AFP in French 1232 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (AFP) — Heads of state and government began a closed-door meeting this morning to discuss the six items on the agenda of the 12th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO), which opened yesterday evening in Nouakchott. These points include a study of the report on the CEAO secretary general's activities and the adoption of the 1987 budgets of the community's General Secretariat, the Community Development Fund (FCD), and the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community (FOSIDEC).

The general secretariat's operating budget, which has been reduced by 9.5 percent in comparison to the previous one, is expected to be approved by the heads of state, according to a reliable source.

Among the main items to be discussed at the summit are the conclusions of the CEAO Council of Ministers, the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement (ANAD) — grouping CEAO member-countries and Togo and whose eighth summit also opened yesterday evening in Nouakchott — and the resolutions of the board of directors of the community's specialized agencies.

The renewal of the terms of office of the community department heads and the setting of the date and place of the next summit will be examined as well. It was learned from a reliable source that the 13th meeting will be held in Benin.

Finally, the heads of state are expected to hear a report from the four lawyers hired by the community to recover the FOSIDEC funds (6.5 billion CFA francs — Fr130 million) embezzled in a swindle by former Ivorian minister and businessman Mohamed Diawara. According to a reliable source, the lawyers have made no headway, and there have been no concrete results.

Problems Remain as Summit Ends

AB212310 Paris AFP in French 1844 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 21 Apr (AFP) — The 12th summit of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) ended this evening in Nouakchott without the regional organization, which groups Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal, being able to definitively resolve the problems related to its growth, which have regularly shaken the organization.

After the Diawara affair, in which the Ivorian businessman misappropriated 6.5 billion CFA francs (Fr130 million), and the dispute over the restructuring of the CEAO, intracommunity trade that has now become the bone of contention. In fact, at this morning's closed-door session, a 5-hour quarrel over intracommunity trade erupted between Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast. Burkina Faso, which feels it is not getting a favorable deal, has decided to consume Burkinabe products only, and has prohibited the importation of certain Ivorian products, especially fruit. Thus, Ouagadougou intends to protest the fact that Abidjan has abandoned Burkinabe meat in favor of that of Argentina.

Beyond this problem of the free movement of goods within the community, it is the problem of unequal development among CEAO member-states and the resultant integration of markets chosen by member-countries that are being raised again, observers note.

A leaflet, addressed to heads of state by a "group of eight disappointed experts" of the CEAO, which observers suspect to be motivated by Burkina Faso, appeared today when the heads of state were meeting behind closed doors. This leaflet raised in unorthodox terms the problem of intracommunity trade and the viability of the CEAO in its present form.

However, an appeasing formula was found: The summit called for the intensification of trade between states and a more fixed form of trade between states that already have a tradition of trade. In addition, the heads of state approved the Secretariat General's operating budget for 1987 proposed by the conference of ministers. This budget has been reduced by 9.5 percent compared to the previous one and amounts to 1.1 billion CFA francs. [Words indistinct] Gorgui Sene of Senegal was reelected as head of the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community (FOSIDEC).

President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin was elected chairman of the CEAO and the next summit will be held in Cotonou in 2 years' time.

Joint Communique Issued

AB220929 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The 12th summit of the West African Economic Community [CEAO] and the 8th summit of the Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement [ANAD] ended in Nouakchott yesterday evening under the leadership of the CMSN chairman and head of state, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya. A joint communique was issued at the end of the summit in which the heads of state expressed satisfaction with the community's progress, notably the consolidation of accomplishments in subregional projects. The summit approved the results of the deliberations of the 23d ministerial session which took place in Nouakchott from 15 to 17 April and the 16th meeting of the board of directors of the Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community, FOSIDEC.

The heads of state were satisfied with the spirit of solidarity and fraternity which prevailed throughout the deliberations. They reiterated their loyalty to the community and thanked organizations and friendly countries for their continued support. The summit decided to entrust the CEAO chairmanship to His Excellency Mathieu Kerekou, president of Benin.

Concerning ANAD, the summit took note of the organizational report by the group's secretary general. It adopted the results of this session as well as the recommendations made by the ministerial meeting. The heads of state called on Col Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, to retain his post as ANAD chairman and General Gomis, the current secretary general, retained his post as well.

The head of state delivered an important closing address in which he emphasized that the 12th summit was one of consolidation of achievements and an expression of our common desire to pursue a policy of rigor and austerity. It was also an opportunity for us to make important decisions to help improve our organizational structures.

Leaders Comment on Summit

AB221530 Dakar PANA in French 1226 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Nouakchott, 22 Apr (PANA) — The 12th summit conference of the West African Economic Community (CEAO) ended yesterday afternoon in the Mauritanian capital. It was presided over by the Mauritanian president, Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, outgoing CEAO chairman and current chairman of ANAD (Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement, grouping CEAO member-states and Togo).

"The outcome of the summit, with its deliberations held in camera, will please the community's member-states," according to a Mauritanian diplomat questioned by PANA shortly after the publication of the final communique.

Commenting on the 12th CEAO summit, President Taya said "the 12th CEAO session saw the consolidation of our gains, the expression of our common goals of rigor and austerity, the making of concrete decisions to improve the community's structures, and the renewed manifestation of the spirit of solidarity within the CEAO."

The final communique issued at the end of the 12th summit reflects the satisfaction of the leaders of member-states with the community's accomplishments.

The various points on the agenda of the summit were examined and approved unanimously — both financial questions and the community's restructuring.

Meanwhile, the Burkinabe head of state, Captain Thomas Sankara, indicated that "economic issues were examined in-depth," specifying that Africa is becoming more and more aware of the difficult economic problems to be solved and the obstacles to its development.

Speaking further on the strengthening of the community spirit, Burkinabe President Sankara declared: "Together we must lay the necessary economic foundations, for Africa is endowed with the resources to achieve this."

At the end of the deliberations of the 12th summit, President Mathieu Kerekou of Benin became [words indistinct] of our community."

As for the reorganization, the secretary general's authority has grown, as he will now be chairman of the boards of directors of the various institutions of the CEAO.

At the closing session, Mr Kerekou delivered a policy statement in which he insisted on the reactivation of CEAO structures. This, he said, would enable the community to reach the objectives assigned to it by the heads of state and government.

Jurists See Possible Resolution of CEAO Scandal

AB181113 Paris AFP in French 1726 GMT 17 Apr 87

[Text] Abidjan, 17 Apr (AFP) — The Association of African Jurists (AJA) has decided to take an initiative in the near future to facilitate the repayment of more than 6 billion CFA francs embezzled from the CEAO [West African Economic Community]. This was announced in a statement issued by that organization and given to AFP in Abidjan today.

Mohamed Diawara, a former Ivorian minister and businessman, and Moussa Ngom, a former director general of FOSIDEC [Solidarity and Intervention Fund for the Development of the Community] (a fund set up by the CEAO), were jailed for 15 years by the Ouagadougou People's Tribunal in April 1986 and ordered to repay the funds they had embezzled.

"In agreement with the prisoners and after consultations with the Burkinabe authorities, AJA has decided to take the initiative to resolve the present situation in the interest of the peoples of the community," the statement pointed out. This initiative could consist of obtaining the release of the detainees, sources close to AJA said. The sources added that the important thing is to recover the money, which is an uncertain under the present circumstances. The statement also announced the establishment of a regional branch of the AJA in Burkina Faso led by Emmanuel Salembere, a former Burkinabe ambassador in Paris.

ECOWAS Prepares W. African Economic Recovery Plan

AB201431 Dakar PANA in English 1349 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Dakar, 20 April (PANA) — An economic recovery program for the entire West African sub-region — the first of its kind — has been drawn up by the Lagos-based secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The most important aspect of the package is devoted to investment and the promotion of 136 national and regional development projects valued at more than 926 million U.S. dollars.

Conceived as a solution to the region's deteriorating socio-economic conditions and gloomy development prospects, the program is expected to be launched by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida and later presented to the 16 ECOWAS member states and the international community.

Details of the program are contained in an elaborate document divided into five chapters, each dealing with various aspects of economic recovery in the sub-region.

Authors of the document say it represents a regional aspect of the Africa priority program for economic recovery (1986-1990), adopted in 1985 by the 21st OAU summit.

ALGERIA

Bulgaria's Zhivkov Addresses Assembly, Departs

National Assembly Speech

LD220834 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov this afternoon addressed the National Assembly, in the presence of the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to Algeria. In his speech he praised Algeria's efforts and successes in all fields and its important status in the international arena. He expressed satisfaction at the fine level of the relations between the two countries, which have grown in recent years, thanks to the common efforts and a new impetus and expansion at all levels.

After he had pointed to the various contradictions in the world today, the Bulgarian president called for the need to cooperate and to unite efforts among states in order to reduce and eliminate the specter of nuclear weapons, to subject scientific and technical cooperation among states to peaceful purposes, and to establish a just and realistic international economic order.

On his country's foreign policy, President Zhivkov pointed out that his country pursues a policy of peace, good neighborliness, and cooperation with the Balkan states, and works for the consolidation of understanding in this region. He renewed his country's support for the various just causes in the world, foremost among them the cause of the Arab peoples in their struggle against imperialism.

After denouncing the Zionist occupation of Arab territories, he supported the call for finding a drastic and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem and expressed confidence that a summit on the Middle East with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO, could lead to a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem and the Middle East crisis.

The Bulgarian president then expressed anxiety at the conflict between Iraq and Iran, and also called for the removal of the remnants of colonialism in Africa. He expressed his support for the Nonaligned Movement's efforts to reduce tension in the world and for the consolidation of international cooperation.

'Press Statement'

LD230349 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The official visit of President Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which lasted 3 days, was crowned with the release of a press statement. In it, the two sides expressed their satisfaction at the strong and varied relations that have developed between the FLN and the Bulgarian Communist Party, between the two countries' parliaments and governments, and between their mass organizations, emphasizing the great importance placed on strengthening and expanding these relations, especially by continuing regular contacts at all levels.

The two sides also stressed, with satisfaction, the level reached by the two countries' economic, scientific, technical, and cultural relations, especially in the provision of new methods and capabilities to push bilateral relations forward on a stable and lasting basis beneficial to both countries. In this context, they stressed the role allocated to the mixed Algerian-Bulgarian Commission for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation and expressed their satisfaction at the resolutions adopted at the last session of this commission with a view to securing the more significant development of long-term bilateral economic relations with planned prospects.

Regarding the international situation, the two sides indicated their deep concern about the persistence of the causes of the deterioration of the situation at the political and economic levels. They expressed their conviction that a practical purification of the international climate would have to utilize decisive action and substantial measures in order to lay down a system of collective and international security, as well as to achieve disarmament, the democratization of international relations, non-interference in internal affairs, the speeding up of the process of liquidating colonialism, and the recognition of peoples' right to self-determination.

After reaffirming their unyielding position regarding world liberation issues, especially the issues of Western Sahara, South Africa, and Namibia, the two sides expressed their hope that the current session of the PNC held in Algiers, would consolidate the unity of the Palestinian resistance and the strengthening of its ranks. The two sides strongly condemned the repeated Zionist assaults on Arab peoples and reaffirmed their demand for the Zionist forces' unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem.

They considered, in particular, that the Middle East crisis could not be solved with a unilateral agreement and condemned any initiative that sought a settlement on this basis. The Algerian and Bulgarian sides reaffirmed their support for convening an international conference under UN auspices which would form the only suitable framework for resolving the crisis in that region.

Bulgarian President Todor Zhivkov left Algiers yesterday morning and was seen off by President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN, after a 3-day visit.

Romanian Official Brings Message to Bendjedid

LD222335 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the party, today at the Presidency received Miu Dobrescu, member of the Romanian Communist Party Political Executive Council and chairman of the General Trade Union Confederation of Romania, who delivered a message from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu to the president. The audience was attended by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member and minister of foreign affairs, and the Romanian ambassador in Algeria.

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Pacific Peace Forum

LD202226 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
2023 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Misratah to participants in the conference of revolutionary and progressive forces and peace movements in the Pacific on 20 April — recorded]

[Text] It gives me pleasure to welcome you in your base and international center, which undertakes for your sake and for the sake of your struggle for freedom, all the serious consequences which this entails. I meet with you purposely on the shores of the Gulf of Sidra, which has become the Gulf of Challenge Against Imperialism. Here we confront and challenge the attempts at domination and imperialist haughtiness, and at the same time, we proved here the ability of small states to challenge and confront imperialist forces, to confront and defeat them, no matter how mighty these forces are. A year ago, we shot down several American aircraft which had crossed the line of death in the Gulf of Sidra. And when that battle failed in March 1986, they tried to kill me directly through the well-known Atlanticist attack, in which all the members of NATO, led by America, took part.

This encounter on the shores of the Gulf of Sidra is in fact a link in the chain of encounters with the world revolutionary forces. I had previously met in this place with revolutionary groups from all parts of the world. And due to the significance of this meeting with you, we emphasize that there exists a wide international front which has emerged to confront imperialism everywhere, and that the Libyan people do not stand alone at the Gulf of Sidra, but with them stand all the forces struggling for freedom. [applause and indistinct chants] We emphasize that imperialism is not the enemy of the Libyan people alone, but is the enemy of all peoples aspiring for freedom and peace.

What increases my pleasure in receiving you, and my appreciation of you, is the fact that the world revolutionary forces have the courage to hold their conferences in the open and within the sight and hearing of the imperialists. We raise our voices high on the Libyan soil and challenge imperialism and declare our preparedness to fight for freedom and against imperialism.

This meeting today beings together the dynamic forces in the South Pacific and East Asia, from Japan to the Philippines and to Australia, and the rest of the islands of the Pacific.

Now this region of world-wide importance affirms its presence here on Libyan soil and along the Gulf of Sidra. We like to tell the world that we are one single front which stretches from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean; it includes all forces fighting for freedom. We know about the large rumor with regard to the South Pacific and East Asia region, which started when you began to answer the call and when you started to meet at this conference. Agents in Australia and New Zealand, under orders from their imperialist masters, began to fabricate a rabid campaign against you, which lacks justification. It has no justification or demand, but imperialism would like to impose its custody upon you.

According to the law of imperialists, man is valued according to the amount of money he has, according to the vast land, fortunes, and large populations he own. They are materialistic criteria. However, they deny peace, freedom, and the right of life to a group because it is a small unit, like the people of Vanuatu, or the Solomon Islands or anything in this context. They did not recognize Grenada's right of existence because it is a small island composed of 100,000 people.

Look at the jurisdiction and ethics of imperialists. Their rotten criteria are that small people, the poor, the colored and the blacks have no right to live on the earth; they should be food for imperialism to swallow. Ourselves, our islands, and our strategic regions should be for the benefit of imperialism. Why? Because we are colored, because we are black, because we are small in number, because we are poor. You in the South Pacific, in East Asia, you are not part of America, the United States, and you are not part of Britain. In what capacity does the United States and Britain protest when you move from your countries to another country in the world, to any place in the world? What is this encroachment? They impose a ban on the freedom of the movement of people.

Imperialism protests at the movement of free citizens from Australia to Libya, or from New Zealand, or any other island in the South Pacific, or the Philippines, or Japan. Look at this decayed logic, these bad criteria. How can we achieve understanding with the United States or Britain? There is no common logic for an understanding with it. There is no other way than that of confrontation alone, because this is the only language they understand. They understand the language of confrontation and that of force. They want to swallow us one after the other. After Grenada they wanted to swallow Nicaragua, but we all stood by Nicaragua. They wanted to swallow Libya, but they found it bigger and more difficult to swallow. Thus they returned disgraced. [applause] They were angered by the prospect of Vanuatu becoming an independent state. And after it had become independent and a member of the United Nations and the nonaligned against their wish, they wanted to control its relations with others. They protested at the warm relations between Vanuatu and Libya.

They have installed themselves as guardians of independent Vanuatu. They want to decide with whom she should maintain relations and with whom she should sever them. Why all this hue and cry, all this protest over your move to respond to the appeal and, ultimately, your presence on the Libyan territory?

There is a strong reason. It is because they have agreed to turn the South Pacific into a nuclear test zone and an area for future conflict between the two superpowers.

You should realize that there is a strategic idea being vigorously put forward and they are trying to persuade the superpowers of it, namely to transfer the confrontation from Europe to the Pacific Ocean.

Why do they want to transfer the confrontation from Europe to your region? It is because they see that a confrontation across the Pacific Ocean is easier and less damaging than a confrontation across Europe. A confrontation in Europe will include a land engagement between Warsaw Pact and NATO forces on European territory. In addition, the medium-range missiles will be effective on such a front. Furthermore, the war will be extremely difficult because it will be fought in a heavily populated area, with cultivated land and mountains as well as interwoven communication routes, the majority of which do not run along the lines of the war [as heard] and thus war in Europe will be complicated and the losses will be very high because it will be fought in a heavily populated area.

Therefore, there is an alternative idea, namely to transfer the confrontation from Europe to the Pacific Ocean. They say if our fleets clash or if our nuclear and conventional bombs and missiles fall on New Caledonia or on Vanuatu, or on the Solomon Islands, or even on New Zealand, then it will cause a marginal loss. If the people of the Solomon Islands were killed it would be better than killing the people of Belgium or France or Britain or Germany.

The blood of the inhabitants of the Solomon Islands is cheap, and the blood of the European is expensive. This logic of theirs is a cause for laughter and an object of ridicule. If a nuclear bomb falls on Vanuatu this is a little loss, losing the small people of Vanuatu, however, if it falls on France, Italy or Britain we shall lose one of these great peoples. [applause and shouting of slogans]

Sacrificing Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Ocean islands and all the inhabitants of the Pacific Ocean is a minor loss and does not matter. However, what they do not want is to sacrifice, Europe, Britain, America -- their peoples and wealth. You can confirm the truth of this idea and the fact that it is serious. I mean their disdain for your lives, your freedom, and your right to exist is their only concern and that is a serious matter. They deny you the right to existence and freedom by deciding to make your region one of nuclear tests. Why do they not drop nuclear bombs in the North Sea, in the Channel, or in any of the [word indistinct] gulfs? Because this will harm the British people in the North Sea, the Channel, and the French and the German peoples. However, if they are dropped in the South Pacific, they damage your lives, not those of the Atlanticists.

Thus it does not matter if you die of radiation or if experiments are carried out on you as they are carried out on mice. They do not consider you human beings, but mice. They carry out experiments on you. Yes, this is their view. In South Africa they do not consider blacks as human beings. They consider them mice and rabbits and carry out limb transplants and heart transplants on them. Dr Barnard, the surgeon who became famous in South Africa — why did he become famous for heart transplants? Because he carries out experiments on blacks believing that they are not human beings. He cannot carry out experiments in America or Europe because the imperialists, the Americans and the Europeans, are human beings, but the black is not a human being. He carried out experiments on blacks just as they are carried out in the West on mice or rabbits, until he arrived at the heart transplant (?technique), for which there had been no procedure in the past years. Why did it succeed in South Africa? It is due to their perception of the black person, that he does not deserve life and consequently experiments are carried out on him. If these experiments succeed on blacks, transplants of artificial hearts or limbs will not be carried out on blacks; they will be carried out on whites. The benefit from killing the blacks is life for the whites. [Word indistinct] I apologize, I (?forgot), I am explaining this to you. In short, I will go quickly onto the idea I told you about [words indistinct].

In any case, this confrontation at present through [words indistinct] a globe would be more useful because the Pacific Ocean is not clear here. [Video shows Al-Qadhdhafi pointing at a map of the world] It is evident that this confrontation is (?waged) from the other side of the planet, through the Pacific Ocean. Anyhow, this is not clear on a map, only a globe can give us a clearer idea.

They have now decided to turn your region into a region for nuclear tests. In order to show you the danger and the opportunist character of the international imperialist policy, I would like to say that there are arbitrariness, restrictions and agreements also in strategic terminology. Agreements No 1 and No 2 they call SALT I and SALT II. These are between the Soviet Union and America, but another dirty state like France took advantage of this situation, although it does not adhere to it. Now there is a problem, because when America and the Soviet Union agree, what happens to the other nuclear states, such as Britain and France? France seized the opportunity. It developed its nuclear armaments at the expense of your lives and your future, and it carried out nuclear explosions in this region. It took advantage of the preoccupation of the United States and the Soviet Union with regard to nuclear tests, their reduction, the issue of disarmament, and everything to do with the process of detente. France took advantage of all this and decided to test nuclear weapons and quickly developed them at the expense of your region and your lives. In other words, it chose your region and started throwing bombs at it. These bombs, as far as they are concerned, must eventually be tested.

Do British people or other Europeans die in the process or is it just the Asians who die? Naturally, these tests are carried out by Europeans. Therefore they prefer to see Asians dying. Who should die, the whites or the blacks? Naturally, they say the blacks are the ones who should die. Should they officially test these bombs in the Atlantic where they themselves live, or in the Pacific where other people live? Naturally, they say that the tests must be carried out in the Pacific so that the danger threatens these peoples: you, the peoples of the Pacific Ocean. This is not unprecedented.

America did not hesitate to drop its atomic bombs on Japan. Since then, it has been decided that the Pacific Ocean has to become the region to be sacrificed. We sacrifice the people of Japan, the people of the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and all the islands in the Pacific Ocean. Who cares? If Japan had been near Europe and America, America might not have dropped its atomic bombs, but it did because it is separated [from Japan] by the Pacific Ocean.

Therefore, when the big uproar erupted following your move toward Libya, we understood that this was related to the hostile strategy of the United States, the other Atlantic states, their ally the Zionist entity, which is established in the usurped Palestine, and the racist regime in South Africa, because this move you are pursuing and this conference is considered a grave blow to their hostile policy. They want you to be eliminated without the world knowing about it. They reject independence. They strongly oppose the independence of Vanuatu because they do not want a state to be established in this region that is being prepared for nuclear tests or one that will represent confrontation in the future. So it will be trodden on, and its inhabitants will die without anybody knowing about it.

They do not want the world to know about these regions, or the independent states which are established in them, or whose voices could be heard inside the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement or any organization among Asian-African organizations, etc. They do not want the world to hear about you, or to hear that you are human beings and that you have a right to life, peace and to existence on your islands, which God created. They even falsify statistics about you. They falsify all information included in their encyclopeadias and statistics. They fabricate lies which serve their filthy and antilife, antipeace, antifreedom and antipeople policies. They want to prove that there are no people in the Pacific Ocean. Several times they have published false information purporting that there are no inhabitants on these islands, while these islands are full of inhabitants. Several times they said that there are forests inhabitated by the gorilla. They want the world to believe that you are gorillas, not human beings.

So what will happen if we drop a nuclear bomb and the gorillas die in the forest? Who would protest the death of the gorilla? They have reached this level. I am able to supply... [Al-Qadhdhafi changes thought] In the future the international center, which is your center and the department of your battle and statements, will give you information that exposes the hostile and rotten policy of the imperialists and the racists, who humiliate you and supply false images of you so that the world will not protest nuclear tests being carried out in your region. They are trying to isolate you. Sometimes when one finds inhabitants in some regions and we tell them that there are residents in this region, they say no; there are no inhabitants in the region; they are from us; they are immigrants.

This is what France does. France does not regard the people of the Kanaks, Caledonia or even Martinique in the Atlantic as inhabitants of these regions. They are French. Why does France occupy this region? Because it states that there are French nationals living there. It occupies Reunion Island because it says that French people live there, the Mayotte in the Comoros Islands because it claims that French nationals exist there. No. They are African inhabitants: Reunion is African.

Tomorrow France will continue its occupation of Chad, Central Africa and the Gabon, and it will say that these are French. Yes, it is possible. Britain occupied the Malvinas and said that they are British.

What is important is geography, as these islands belong to Argentina. Has the Arab the right to seek the Arab race, wherever it exists, and go to occupy the land where the Arab race exists? A big proportion of the population of the Philippines is of Arab origin. Do the Arabs have the right to go occupy part of the Philippines because it is Arab in origin? There are many islands of Arab origin. The population of the Maldives is Arab. Do the Arabs have the right to go occupy it, saying it is Arab? We now consider the Maldives. The Arabs were the ones who gave them their name. Madagascar was named by the Arabs. Can we consider it like the Malvinas to Britain? The Canary Islands -- their population is Arab from southern Arabia. They migrated there as an extension of the Sahara. Now they are occupied by Spain.

This gathering is regarded as a very serious one, and we understand this. You should shoulder the responsibilities that this entails because it is an essential matter. It concerns your existence on your islands, your homeland. It concerns your right to life in your countries. It concerns a natural right to freedom and peace. When confronting imperialism, we are indeed forced to do this. [chanting] It is true, the struggle for peace and freedom is an issue of life and death to you. Either you stage a revolution and prove your existence and be respected in the country in which God created you, or you fight until the end.

Libya was the victim of an extremely vile aggression by nuclear states this month last year. Why? Because it adopts this same attitude; because it plays this role; because they know that Libya shoulders its responsibility in the South Pacific; because there is an international revolution in Libya, an internationalist revolution; [chanting] because they know that Libya, for instance, shoulders its responsibility in the South Pacific; and because Libya will say to you what I am saying to you now. You are the vital force, you are the revolutionary force which will challenge and confront, and your peoples will in the end triumph because you are demanding your natural right to a secure, free, and happy life. We only state facts to you. They want to eliminate us so that you do not find someone to say this to you, or to force us to be afraid and stop saying this. Therefore, they hit us directly with bombs and with their naval and air fleets. They want to elimiante the international center, the headquarters of the international revolutionary command, because if the revolution in the South Pacific and East Asia triumphs, they will have lost a sphere of influence for the future, a field for testing nuclear weapons. They will have lost a likely operational arena for World War III. The voices of these people will rise and reject its being an operational theater. They will physically resist and consequently the imperialists will be forced to transfer the war to their zone. They want you to die in the war and not them. They want to sacrifice you so that they will remain safe. So you, through this revolution and this emergency on the scene of international events, and by the establishment of this international platform, are forcing them to accept destruction on their own heads. You are forcing them to wage the next war on their territory and not on your territories.

They do not want these dynamic forces that say no and reject being a nuclear test site or refuse to be an operational theater for nuclear war. And in this case they will be forced to carry out the tests on their own territories and to wage the war on their territories. They do not want that. They want peace for themselves and annihiliation for you.

Where is the place to shoulder this responsibility? Where is the place where all of these struggling forces can gather together — from Central America, Latin America, the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, Africa and Asia — and shoulder responsibility other than Libya? Libya has shouldered this responsibility courageously and is still shouldering it, viewing this as an eternal and sacred mission. The deliverance of humanity entails the formation of a worldwide popular front that extends to all continents of the world in order to check the imperialists and racists and stop them in their tracks. They must stop disregarding and tampering with the people, with others' territories, others' safety, and stop the disdain for others' natural right to live. There is no state in the world that has declared itself an international platform and stood up to the laser bombs and the attacks of the sea and air fleets — considering this the price of its mission — nor one which has carried on with the mission except Libya, and they know that and have realized it.

Therefore, they consider Libya the number one peril and not the Soviet Union because a detente or a balance could be achieved with the Soviet Union. With Libya, however, no balance can be reached. There can be no bargaining between us and them. [applause] We can never give up a single thing in order to reach an agreement with them. But the Soviet Union gives up things; and America gives up things; and they meet each other halfway. Therefore, the side which refuses to make any concessions is the problem; it is the one to be dealt with first; it is the one to be gotten rid of in the first place, because we have no medium-range missiles to withdraw from one place and deploy in another place, or nuclear tests to defer or abandon, or an arms race to escalate. We, the small peoples, have none of that.

We have nothing but the revolution for freedom, and this is not a subject for concessions or for discussion. They want us to make concessions in the revolution for freedom, but it can never be compromised. This cannot be conceded at all. We have nothing else except this, but the Soviet Union has other things. It can, for example, concede the carrying out of nuclear tests, certain areas, Afghanistan, medium-range weapons; America can concede its bases everywhere — in the oceans, on the continents; it can concede its fleets; it can concede its tests, the armament race, the arming of space. We have none of these. We have nothing but revolution for the sake of achieving freedom. Therefore there is no possibility of conceding anything.

There is no possibility of having concord between us and them. They want us to concede this [revolution for freedom], and this is the basis of our existence. They want us to concede everything and become nothing; they want us to become slaves. They want to liquidate us. We reject this. The result will be victory; we will definitely triumph.

No matter how much they resist us they will fail in the future. This is because they resist for the sake of imperialist ambitions and unlawful imperialist interests. This will not go on forever. When they face the losses in trying to achieve unlawful ambitions they will withdraw until they reach the limits of the red line. But we fight for the [word indistinct]. It is a fundamental issue, the issue of our life and existence, the issue of our freedom, the issue of peace. Therefore we will triumph because we have nothing to concede.

We fight with our backs to the wall. We fight in order to survive. We fight for the sake of freedome and peace. But they have no wall behind them. When they retreat, they retreat a great distance from their wall; they retreat from their imperialist ambitions and imperialist interests and unlawful aims on our lands. When we pressure them they will retreat. But as far as we are concerned there is no possibility for a retreat; our backs are to the wall.

When we fought the American Marines in Lebanon, they retreated to other bases. But when they fought us in Tripoli and Banghazi, we did not retreat to another place; we stood our ground; we stayed, and we are still in Tripoli and Banghazi. We were determined to die, and our backs were to the wall. But they expand in the world and build bases. If they lose, they will withdraw from them; they will retreat.

They have many bases in the world. And last they have their own lands. But when we fight in our own homeland, we have no other place to which we can retreat. Hence we have confidence in our confrontation because it is serious. It is a confrontation that makes us fight fiercely and ferociously because we fight for survival. They do not want us to meet and talk like this to each other. They do not want to see a free land on this globe, in which the living forces in the world can meet and talk frankly in order to make their voices heard in the world. Thus they want to put an end to Libya so that there will be no nucleus around which revolutionary forces from all over the world can gather. They want to destroy the leadership of this revolutionary force so that scatter. In actual fact when the Solomon Islands, for example, stand on their own, who will ever hear their voice? But when Vanuatu or the Solomon Islands, for example, are parts of a big international front, they will carry the same weight as that of this front.

Luxembourg is a very small state in Europe but it is a NATO member. Consequently, Luxembourg has the same weight as NATO. If one attacks Luxembourg it is as if one is attacking the whole of NATO. But if Luxembourg were not a NATO member, a small state, it would be possible to attack it. It has no weight; it has no weight.

They do not want the establishment of an international front so that your small states and your small dispersed islands in the Pacific Ocean, which is the region they want for nuclear tests and for World War III, will have no weight. We would like to set up an international front which is anti-imperialist, antiracist, antifascist, antireactionary and anti-Zionist so that every one of us will have weight regardless of the small number of its population. We should understand that the value of any small island in the Pacific Ocean lies in its being part of an international front. Hence, this small island will become the whole front because it will be an integral part of the front and will become the front itself. They do not want to see this front emerging because this will be a serious change in the course of international politics in this age. All peoples will wake up, realize the danger and unite within one single front against imperialism. This would be the end of imperialism.

Sorry, this is the ocean [words indistinct], this blue area represents the whole Pacific Ocean. [video shows al-Qadhdhafi pointing to a map] All this is considered by them as a breathing space for a third war; all these islands, this ocean, this small number of inhabitants should be sacrificed, which is better than sacrificing this big number of people. This is the major population area. This is the Soviet Union; this is Europe; this is the northern Pacific Ocean, which is a limited distance from them and full of their islands. Then there is the United States. This is a very short distance, full of people. Their transportation -- they want their transportation to be secure, their fortunes secure, their peoples secure, and they want to bring the war to the Pacific Ocean so that they will not use...[incomplete sentence as heard].

There is a possibility of not using medium-range nuclear weapons. It would be possible to use intercontinental weapons only. This cancels out a huge war resource which can be used during a third war if the battlefield is in Europe and the North Atlantic. But if the Pacific Ocean becomes the operations arena, it will be impossible to use medium-range missiles, and consequently this community will be struck off, automatically unoperational. Instead of negotiating now in order to cancel the negotiations, they will automatically be canceled until the operational arena becomes the Pacific Ocean. [sentence as heard] It will become a naval battle, using ships, for control of the Pacific Ocean whose peoples will be the victims — in Japan, in the Philippines, in Australia, in Indonesia and in all these islands of the Pacific Ocean. They want this region, which is far away from Europe and America, to remain the nuclear polluted region, either by tests or wars. Let the inhabitants of these islands die -- this does not matter -- so that European and North American people can stay alive.

Obviously, the principal agent of imperialism in this region, which is working for its masters and makers in the Pacific Ocean to keep it as a region of influence for its masters, the imperialists, are the Israelis. The head of the Zionist entity, which has usurped occupied Palestine paid a visit to this region in an attempt to obstruct this conference and declared he is going there. He did not say he is going to impede the effectiveness of the revolutionary forces in this region, which wants freedom and peace. He did not say this. He said he is going in order to paralyze the effectiveness of Libyan activity in this region. What is Libyan activity? Does Libya want to carry out nuclear tests in the Pacific? Tell him this — there are journalists here -- write: Does Libya want to carry out nuclear tests, like France, in the Pacific? Does it want to establish military bases like America? Does it want to test nuclear weapons? Does it want to prepare the field of operations for World War III in this ocean? Libya, this small state, does it have such ambitions?

Libya wants to contact these peoples and establish relations with them for economic and revolutionary cooperation in order to maintain our existence and create a united entity, in order to preserve our existence and abolish nuclear tests, prevent our region from becoming the battlefield for a new world war, and in order to live in peace in our homes. [chanting] Thus Zionism is the main agent of the imperialist forces that was entrusted with the task of sabotaging and impeding the rallying of our forces in this region. Within this context, the head of the Zionist entity, which has usurped occupied Palestine, went to the region in place of his imperialist masters in order to distort the Libyan picture there, so that your presence in Libya becomes an ugly matter. When you are in Libya for any purpose, to make nuclear weapons, to trade in hashish, for any purpose, in order to bring together our forces in order to fight for our right to survive and show them that the cause of freedom in the world is an indivisible one, and that its triumph anywhere consolidates it everywhere, and that its loss anywhere is a loss to the cause of freedom everywhere, and that the fighters for freedom are brothers in battle, in arms — they fight side by side even if they are far away geographically, and that their rifles, no matter how great the distance, are directed at a common enemy, and that the common enemy can only be defeated by the unity of fighters against it everywhere, and that its defeat is inevitable if the fighters for freedom unite against the common enemy of freedom. [sentence as heard] They know that they are our enemies, enemies of our peoples, and that they want imperialist expansion, domination, and haughtiness on earth, and they do not want us to become aware and to understand in order to resist.

But whether they like it or not we will meet, we will resist and we will discuss, because we are fighting for our legitimate right to live and we are resisting unlawful hostile policies. If they have the impudence to defend hostile policies which are harmful to peace and freedom, and which are contemptuous of the peoples, then it is our duty to have the courage to fight for the sake of freedom, to raise our voice and our prestige and to unite. Those of you who have not joined the international center must do so immediately because the international center is the power imperialism fears.

The international center is the meeting of all the forces, throughout the world's continents, that are fighting against imperialism, racism, Zionism, reaction and fascism. The Latin American peoples are fighting fascism. The peoples of the Pacific are fighting imperialism. The peoples of Africa and Palestine are fighting racism. The Arabs are fighting Zionism. These are enemies common to us all. If some of us fight fascism, imperialism, racism or Zionism, we will defeat them all because they have formed a vile alliance against us.

Imperialism has formed an alliance with racism and Zionism. Who is protecting the Israelis and the racists in South Africa? The imperialist camp. They have set up this vile alliance, and we must take an immediate initiative to set up our own alliance, our universal front. We must all belong to this universal front because we want peace for our peoples, we want peace for mankind. This front is not a front of nuclear weapons, nor is it a front to militarize space. This front in fact wants peace for itself and for the world. But this peace can only be achieved if we defeat the enemy of peace. Thus, our fight becomes a fight for peace. Our fight is the road to peace.

If we want peace to be achieved, we must defeat the enemy of peace.

France is the enemy of peace. America is the enemy of peace. The Israelis are the enemies of peace. The racists are the enemies of peace. Britain is the enemy of peace. NATO is the enemy of peace. They want their peace at our expense, but our peace is not at anybody's expense. We do not want to have peace and harm others. We want them to keep their hands off us. Therefore, dear brothers and comrades in the battle for freedom, for peace, we must not fear the United States of America and their phoney arrogance. They picked quarrels with Grenada and failed, and they picked quarrels with Libya and also failed. [chants of "Down, Down USA"] Yes, the United States will fall because it is a force hostile to peace, freedom and mankind. It will fall as Nazism and Fascism fell before.

I also want to say, brothers, that we should not fear the United States because we will inevitably defeat it thanks to this international popular front. We will defeat its reactionary and Zionist and racist lackeys. Yes. We shall win. [preceding sentence in English, repeated several times] Yes, we shall fight and shall triumph. [applause]

Therefore, when you return to your own countries, you should begin gathering the forces fighting for freedom. These words should be voiced throughout the Pacific Ocean. The Pacific Ocean is in danger. The small nations of the Pacific Ocean are in danger. We should address ourselves to all these nations and tell them that they are in danger at the hands of France, America, Britain, Zionism and racism — all of whom want to transform your region into a region of nuclear tests. They want to transform your region into a military operations theater in a third world war. They want to sacrifice you on behalf of the peoples of America and Europe.

You have a common destiny with the peoples of Central and Latin America, Africa and Asia. This front covers that geographical area. The international front should come into being. Its voice should be raised. The front should have an entity in international circles and on the battlefield. [applause]

Libya shoulders the responsibility of leading this front with great courage. The conferences of this front shall be held publicly and openly. Libya does not fear imperialism. Libya has paid the price of this historic responsibility, and as it paid the price it should inevitably receive something in return. The thing we shall receive is the victory of your freedom, the victory of peace and the defeat of imperialism.

The struggle continues!

Meets Conference Participants

LD202103 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 20 Apr 87

[Text] Gulf of Defiance, Al-Tayr 20, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — The leader of the Revolution today received members of the delegations who are taking part in the Conference of the Revolutionary, progressive force and peace movements in the Pacific Ocean which is continuing in the City of Misratah in the municipality of the Gulf of Defiance. The conference is being held under the motto of the strategy of confronting imperialism and neocolonialism.

MOROCCO

Mitterrand, Raimond Arrive on Brief Visit

LD222116 Paris International Service in French 2030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpts] President Francois Mitterrand arrived this evening in Marrakech for a short, official visit to Morocco. The French head of state was traveling on a special Concorde flight. He will, of course, be having talks with King Hassan II. [passage omitted] Over to Faridah Moah on the scene:

[Moah] Accompanied by French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond, 2 personal advisors, and about 30 journalists, French President Francois Mitterrand arrived late this afternoon in Marrakech aboard the Concorde. [passage omitted]

SUDAN

New Round of Libya-Chad Talks Scheduled

JN221344 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Khartoum, 22 Apr (SUNA) — It has been decided to fix a date for a new round of talks on resolving the Libyan-Chadian dispute peacefully. The actual date of the talks will be fixed later. The announcement was made following a meeting between Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and the Chadian minister of state for foreign affairs who handed the prime minister Chadian President Hissein Habre's reply to his message.

Al-Siyasah, which reports the above in its issue today, also reports that a Libyan envoy is expected to arrive in Khartoum in the next few days with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's reply to Sudan's initiative to end the Libyan-Chadian dispute by peaceful means.

In a statement to *Al-Siyasah*, Ahmad Sa'd 'Umar, the prime minister's envoy to Algeria and Chad, says Chad strongly favors continuing the dialogue and concentrating on realizing a settlement safeguarding the rights of all the parties and bringing about the desired stability. He said Goukouni Oueddei's statement declaring acceptance of the legality of Habre's presidency is compatible with Sudan's moves to achieve national unity within the framework of the legitimacy of Habre's presidency.

Al-Mahdi Speaks to Assembly on Current Issues

Egyptian Ties, Military Aid

JN222006 Khartoum SUNA in English 1730 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] April 22 (SUNA) — Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi announced Wednesday that the signing of the Egyptian-Sudanese brotherhood charter is a de facto cancellation of all former joint agreements.

Al-Mahdi said in a statement before the Constituent Assembly (Parliament) Wednesday that the Sudanese-Egyptian joint military pact is no longer existent and that neither of the two countries is committed to any obligations provided by the agreement.

Al-Mahdi explained that the military assistance extended to Sudan by the brotherly countries in the form of weaponry and military equipment does not entail any military commitment on the part of Sudan for those countries.

Peace Talks, Islamic Laws

EA222022 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi delivered a statement today in the Constituent Assembly on the peace initiative which he announced in his address marking the second anniversary of the uprising. His excellency pointed to the contacts made with John Garang's movement which resulted in the Koka Dam agreement in March 1986. He said the government has made the treatment of the situation in the south one of its priorities.

His excellency the prime minister stressed that violence will not lead to decisive political results, and said: If the movement takes one step toward peace the government will take two steps. He expressed hope of an end to this problem which obstructs the nation's progress and development.

On the subject of Islamic laws, his excellency said they will be submitted shortly to the Constituent Assembly.

Islamic Leader Views Political Scene

PM211451 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 15-21 Apr 87 p 11

[Interview with Dr Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the Sudanese Islamic National Front, by Nura Fakhuri in London; date not given]

[Excerpt] [introductory passage omitted] [Fakhuri] The 2d anniversary of the Sudanese uprising and the 1st anniversary of democratic elections coincided this week. How would you assess both stages?

[Al-Turabi] If the revolution was seeking to achieve democratic objectives, the first stage achieved its objectives because the temporary authority was only assigned to care for administrative affairs and restore trust to the people. Some developments took place and consequently this promise was almost abandoned. However trust was eventually restored to the people.

[Fakhuri] Do you mean that the military role could possibly have continued?

[Al-Turabi] Yes. If the military authority had been pliable in the hands of the national grouping, the revolutionary approach would have continued for more than a year. But the government proceeded with the elections despite the problems it faced in the south. No one entrusted this transitional government with solving the country's problems, although it appeared from the first moment to be a government for national salvation. This government did not achieve much because of Sudan's political and economic problems, which are complicated and chronic and require considerable experience.

[Fakhuri] At least they tried to help. Siwar al-Dhahab's handing over of authority to the people is in fact a phenomenon that deserves to be mentioned.

[Al-Turabi] The most important thing which happened in Sudan during that period was Suwar al-Dhahab's fulfillment of his oath and care for the trust until it was eventually restored to the people. Therefore we should not hold him responsible for more than this. I believe the transitional government fulfilled its duty.

[Fakhuri] What about the current government's experiences after only a year of democratic practice?

[Al-Turabi] I believe this government's record after one year does not hold any achievements that are worth mentioning. On the political level the government has failed to adopt clear policies, especially in the domestic, foreign, and economic aspects of Sudanese policy. This government has not shown either efficiency or competence, especially since a number of its ministers are new to public service. This government does not seem to be united because of the contradictory policies adopted by the ministers. This government has made no appreciable progress with regard to the south as contacts with the rebel movement have ceased to exist and no fruitful talks have been held even with political forces in Sudan. The government has proposed no solution to the problems of the north or south or regional problems. As for the "September Laws" and the Islamic Shari'ah laws, the situation remains as it was during the days of the transitional government, which left any question of amendment to an elected government. The government has neither abolished nor implemented the rules of the Shari'ah. In the economic field, inflation rates and the cost of living are still rising, the government's problems with the IMF are frozen, and it has not pursued a clear negotiatory policy. The government has also failed to pursue an export policy even though Sudan has produced a record yield of grain crops this year.

[Fakhuri] You have stated more than once that the current government's foreign policy is not understandable. What do you mean by this?

[Al-Turabi] The government has declared a nonalignment policy, but there is still confusion regarding foreign policy: One side of the government visits Iran while another visits Iraq; one side moves closer to Libya and another closer to Egypt. This nonalignment policy has resulted in our relations with the West being weakened and our relations with the East being severed.

[Fakhuri] How do you view Sudan's relations with its neighbors?

[Al-Turabi] The crisis in relations with Libya is still inflamed because of the Libyan Army's recent entry [into Sudanese territory], which was covered up by the government but later revealed by the opposition.

[Fakhuri] A year ago, on the eve of the elections to be precise, there was a clear, radical difference between the Islamic National Front and the al-Ummah Party and, consequently, between yourself and Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Since then you have become a strong opposition. Today there are indications on the horizon that you will participate in state rule. How do you explain your harsh criticism of a government you intend to join?

[Al-Turabi] First, this is an approach that I am accustomed to, that is, I am objective when it comes to assessing political issues. I was in Numayri's regime, but I criticized him to all journalists who visited me. Had it not been for the problems mentioned earlier, we would not have differed with the government. Had it not been for the dangers threatening us both, we would not agree. The democratic system in Sudan is still fragile. The reason that urges the government, which enjoys a comfortable majority, to cooperate with the opposition and similarily urges the opposition, which is growing rapidly, to cooperate with the government is the dangers threatening the system. Had the government done well during this year it would not have called upon the opposition to participate.

[Fakhuri] What has the government failed to do which you, as the opposition participating in state rule, could achieve in a better way?

[Al-Turabi] First, the problem of the south because our relations with the southerners are stronger and deeper, our dialogue is firmer, and the plan which we presented (the Sudanese charter) seems adequate as a base for national conciliation.

[Fakhuri] Have you held negotiations with Garang on the side?

[Al-Turabi] Yes, we conducted negotiations with the southerners here and in Ethiopia, presenting a solution to the problem of the south which we called the "Sudanese Charter."

[Fakhuri] What does the Islamic National Front's participation in power mean?

[Al-Turabi] The front's entry into power will mean more confidence between the Sudanese intellectuals whom the front represents and the ruling authority. This in addition to the fact that the front possesses a large number of economic cadres in the business and academic fields. Our foreign relations are more intensive than those of the govenment. We also represent a movement which is international in its dimensions. We have more interests in Africa than the government. We seek to enhance the effectiveness and positiveness of Sudanese foreign policy through our participation in power. However, our impact today is already being felt while in opposition. The Islamic National Front seeks to make a civilizational transformation in Sudanese society. When the front joined Numayri it managed to direct the regime toward Islamic objectives although it could not solve the problem of dictatorship. Now that the opposition has entered into a democratic system, it will make such a transformation through the opposition or the government.

[Fakhuri] But you cannot forget that a transformation within Numayri's regime was part of the problem and reason for the uprising.

[Al-Turabi] It is true that some plotted against Numayri and attacked him, toppling him because of his dictatorship, although they knew that he had been like that for 16 years.

[Fakhuri] But it is this transformation that caused the disagreement on the "September Laws!"

[Al-Turabi] The laws of Islamic punishments, alms tax and the banning of usury were pursued and will be implemented whether the West accepts it or rejects it. All Sudanese parties entered into an election campaign which raised the slogan of the Shari'ah's application.

CAMEROON

Leading Journalist Detained in Leaflet Probe

AB221745 Paris AFP in French 1441 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Yaounde, 22 Apr (AFP) — It was learned from well-informed Cameroonian sources in Yaounde today that the editor in chief of a Cameroonian newspaper was arrested 10 days ago by the Cameroonian police in connection with an inquiry into the publication of a leaflet. This leaflet, the same sources stressed, was sent to the management of the Cameroonian National Television (CTV) after the interruption of a program directed by Jean-Claude Ottou, editor in chief of the Cameroon National Water Company's newspaper.

According to the sources, the leaflet was signed by the "Organization for the Liberation of the Cameroonian People" and allegedly contained threats against the CTV management.

Journalists in the capital note that Mr Ottou's arrest followed a quarrel between him and the CTV director general after the unexplained interruption of his program, entitled "The Challenge," barely 10 minutes after it had begun. A few days later, the CTV director informed Mr Ottou that he had been dismissed from the CTV services.

This is the third incident of the kind in Cameroon in less than 2 months. On 7 March the director of the official daily newspaper, *Cameroon Tribune*, was dismissed after 2 months of administrative detention, for allowing the unauthorized publication of a decree by the head of state. [Words indistinct] four other journalists, also from the *Cameroon Tribune*, were interrogated for a week after the publication of an article reporting, in what was described as a "biased" manner, a conference on political literature in Cameroon.

French Presidential Adviser Meets With Biya

AB222312 Yaounde Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] There was a meeting this morning at the Unity Palace between the president and Jean-Christophe Mitterrand, special adviser to the French president on African and Malagasy affairs. The session lasted 3 and 1/2 hours. Serge Ntone was waiting for Mr Mitterrand afterward. Naturally, his first question dealt with the subjects covered in this lengthy meeting.

[Begin recording] [Mitterrand] First, you know how great a pleasure it is for me to visit Cameroon, and this in general tended to prolong our talks, as we discussed everything. Nevertheless, in actual fact, you are aware that a visit to France is planned and that subject took up a good deal of our time, that is, everything concerning this trip and the entire spectrum of issues regarding the ties between our two countries.

[Ntone] Could you tell us when the visit is scheduled to take place?

[Mitterrand] The date will be announced in both Paris and Yaounde by mutual consent.

[Ntone] Is there anything special about this visit to France by the head of state as compared with earlier ones?

[Mitterrand] Yes, it will be a state visit. [end recording]

CONGO

President Sassou-Nguesso Meets PRC Leaders

For PRC media coverage of the visit of President Denis Sassou-Nguesso to the People's Republic of China, see the Middle East & Africa section of the 22 April China *Daily Report* and subsequent issues.

BENIN

Acting President Receives USSR Military Team

AB220944 Cotonou Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Excerpts] The Soviet military delegation led by Lieutenant General [as heard] (Novochesky), which is at the end of its visit to Benin, was received in audience this morning by Comrade Romain Vilon Guezo, chairman of the Standing Committee of the National Revolutionary Assembly and acting head of state. The Soviet military delegation was accompanied to the Presidency by Colonel Charles Bebada, chief of defense staff of the People's Armed Forces [FAP], who was with Colonels Coovi and Ahoueya, chief of staff of the National Defense Forces and chief of staff of the Public Security Forces, respectively. After the audience, Gen (Novochesky) expressed satisfaction with his trip to Benin, and told the press about his talks with the acting head of state.

[Begin recording] [(Novochesky) — in Russian with simultaneous translation into French] I would like to say that it is a great honor for us to have been received by the acting head of state despite his busy schedule. Our discussions were very interesting. The comrade president was a very interesting interlocutor. Our discussions centered on the outcome of President Kerekou's trip to Moscow. [passage omitted] We stressed both countries' desire to develop bilateral cooperation in all fields — that is, the political, economic, social, and military fields. We also stressed that great possibilities for fruitful cooperation exist.

[Reporter] Gen (Novochesky), we can therefore say that your visit to Benin is the consequence of the trip to the Soviet Union by our great comrade in arms, President Kerekou. Could you tell us whether you are satisfied with your visit to Benin?

[(Novochesky)] The results of the visit are considerable and will have long-term effects. We discussed issues relating to the well-defined area entrusted to our delegation. We are deeply satisfied with our visit to Benin and with what we saw, and we said this to the speaker of the National Assembly. The Beninese Government and people have succeeded in setting up the FAP in avery short time. We are pleased to see that the FAP consists of well-trained officers, loyal to the cause of the revolution and to their government, and ready to defend their state's interests. We also saw the results of our common efforts and of Soviet military assistance to the friendly people of Benin. In addition, we are very pleased to say that this aid is likely to increase. In conclusion, we are very satisfied with the visit.

We thank the Beninese Government for giving us the opportunity to acquaint ourselves with the realities of your country, meet with the great and hardworking Beninese people, and see the wonders of your state. All this makes us say that we are satisfied with the visit. [end recording]

As you know, the purpose of the Soviet delegation's visit is to take up the challenges facing Soviet-Beninese military cooperation. The prospects for this collaboration are now quite good. In fact, the dinner hosted in honor of the visiting Soviet delegation at (?Char) Hotel, the former Hotel Croix du Sud, gave both sides a chance to reaffirm their desire to settle the problems still facing this cooperation, particularly in the fields of technological expertise and cadre training.

In his toast at the dinner, Col Charles Bebada, the FAP chief of defense staff, recalled the Soviet Union's privileged position among the countries assisting Benin in supplying its FAP with modern means and weapons to ensure the defense of its revolution. Benin has a lot to learn from the Soviet Union, which is a great military power. This is why Col Charles Bebada stressed that a Soviet-Beninese military joint commission must be created to look into all the problems hampering bilateral military cooperation and achieve all its objectives. The FAP chief of defense staff further called on Gen (Novochesky) to point out to the Soviet authorities the need to examine the conditions for supplying equipment to our country and the modalities for payment within the framework of the active solidarity between the Soviet Union and Benin, which is a small country with limited resources.

Before asking his guests to raise their glasses to the success of Soviet-Beninese cooperation, Col Charles Bebada expressed the hope that the newly established policy of dialogue and consultation would help meet Benin's needs, particularly in the field of instruction and cadre training.

Replying, Gen (Novochesky) expressed his delegation's satisfaction with the contacts it had had in Benin. He stressed that the Soviet Union is determined to help reinforce the defensive capacity of the Beninese FAP.

BURKINA FASO

Benin's Kerekou Stops Over After CEAO Summit

AB221825 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The newly elected chairman of the West African Economic Community, CEAO, President Mathieu Kerekou, has made a stopover in Ouagadougou. He was welcomed at the airport by the comrade president of Burkina Faso. President Kerekou said his stopover was intended to show the Beninese people's sympathy to the Burkinabe people following the tragic railway accident on the Bobo-Abidjan line.

On the CEAO, he said there would be no miracles during his term of office if Benin, his country, were not supported. He did not fail to praise Burkina Faso's tenure as head of the community, stressing with admiration the efforts made to purify and reorganize the group. [passage omitted]

GAMBIA

Jawara Returns From PRC Visit; Agreements Signed

AB221322 Paris AFP in French 1101 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Banjul, 22 Apr (AFP) — Three cooperation agreements were signed during President Dawda Jawara's visit to China (from 11 to 17 April), the Gambian head of state indicated yesterday on his return to Banjul.

One of these loans, worth 60 million dalasis (Fr60 million), will be used to finance projects in health and agriculture.

The other two accords cover the protection of maritime fauna, as well as the creation of joint projects between Chinese firms and private Gambian partners in horticulture, poultry farming, fishing, and brick production.

GHANA

UN Envoy Cited on Economic Recovery Efforts

AB222246 Accra Domestic Service in English
1800 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Ghana's efforts at economic recovery are regarded in international and African circles as the centerpiece of the continent's recovery. This is because the success achieved by the economic recovery program [ERP] has been more remarkable than anywhere else in Africa. This observation was made in Accra today by the special adviser to the UN secretary general, of Africa's economic recovery, Mr Stephen Lewis. He was speaking to newsmen after a closed-door meeting at the Castle, Osu, with the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. Present at the meeting were the secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, and Mr Tsatsu Tsikata of the PNDC Secretariat. Also present was the UNDP [UN Development Program] resident representative, Mrs Anne Forester.

Mr Lewis noted that the ERP has been carefully fashioned and has had a longer period of trial than anywhere else on the African Continent. He explained that UN programs for Africa's economic recovery are aimed at encouraging countries like Ghana to engage in major internal reforms. Such programs, Mr Lewis stated, are primarily geared toward persuading donor countries to give more foreign aid and relief to developing countries in order to control the effect of international commodity prices on their economies. He said even though Ghana has done well in her economic recovery efforts, this has not come about without hardship and excruciating difficulties for the people.

Mrs Anne Forester, on her part, said Ghana has now reached a critical and important stage of the ERP, which calls for the mobilization of additional resources to strengthen the economy. She was of the view that the cofinancing of programs is an appropriate way to encourage development. Mrs Forester stressed that the UNDP would like to see an increased level of cooperation between multilateral and bilateral donors and Ghana at the consultative group meeting in Paris next month.

The secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, said he expects the response of the Paris meeting to be better than previous ones. This is because Ghana has demonstrated her resolve and her willingness to really come to grips with the problems of the country by implementing the necessary policies, despite hardship and difficulties. He said the ERP is entering a new phase which demands additional support. This phase, according to Dr Botchway, will address itself more to structural and medium-term problems in the restructuring of industries, state enterprises, public sector management, and the restructuring of the financial system. He disclosed that a 3-year investment program will be discussed at the Paris meeting. This will recover all public investments for the next 3 years.

Dr Botchway explained further that one dimension of Ghana's recovery program to be discussed is the impact of the economic adjustment process on the people.

PNDC's Tsikata Receives PRC Friendship Delegation

AB222202 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] The 5-member delegation of the Chinese Association for International Understanding now on a 10-day goodwill visit to the country, today called on a member of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Captain Kogo Tsikata, in Accra. They reviewed the existing friendly relations and cooperation between Ghana and China.

The leader of the delegation, He Xiquan, told newsmen later that their discussions also centered on achievements made by Ghanaians under the leadership of the PNDC. He said the people of both countries face a common task of safeguarding their national independence and developing their economy. Mr He Xiquan expressed the hope that Ghanaians will overcome their difficulties.

Capt Kojo Tsikata said though Ghana and China are in the group of Third World countries, they should learn from each other's experiences.

IVORY COAST

Opposition Party Members Arrested, Released

AB221855 London BBC World Service in English
1709 GMT 22 Apr 87

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Leaders of an opposition group in Ivory Coast seem to be quite philosophical if they are arrested and interrogated. Any opposition in the country is very much under the shadow with President Houphouet-Boigny's ruling party. But the Republican Party has been doggedly seeking official recognition and permission to hold its congress. (?It appears) its leaders were picked up, questioned about their activities, and then released. Somewhat surprisingly, they seem quite pleased about the experience. From Abidjan, Lise Doucet reports:

[Begin recording] The Republican Party of Ivory Coast was first formed in 1975. It has never been officially recognized, but it has never been banned. Its members began publishing a newsletter almost 2 years ago, and most recently, they have been seeking permission to hold their first party congress this month.

Senior Ivorian security sources say it was the distribution of its newsletters, which recently published the news of the upcoming congress, which led to the detention in mid-March of party members, including its president, Robert Bailly Tagro. One senior security official pointed out that the newsletter had never been registered, and said it was disturbing public order.

However, according to Mr Tagro, he was questioned about all their political activities. He said that all (?14) other members of the party's Executive Bureau were detained, as well as another 17 party officials working in the country's interior. They were not badly treated, he said. Party members were released as soon as the interrogation was completed.

Mr Tagro, who said he spent 39 days in detention, expressed no bitterness. [end recording]

LIBERIA

Schools Asked To 'Show Cause' for Canceling Class

AB221812 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English
1710 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Education has cited a number of private school operators in the Monrovia area and its immediate environs to show cause for not conducting classes in keeping with the 1987 academic calendar for today, Wednesday, 22 April. Among schools cited are the B.W. Harris Episcopal High School, A.L.E. Zion High School, [name indistinct] Baptist, the A.G.M. High School, which, according to the office of the assistant minister for general supervision, Mrs Sera Givinskay, were closed when she arrived on the respective campuses for normal activities. It is not yet decided what definite action will be taken against those cited.

Sources close to the education minister, Othello Gonga, however, disclosed that those concerned will likely be fined [words indistinct].

It can be recalled that all teachers of the Monrovia Consolidated Schools System were today asked by the Teachers Association of the system to stay home. [passage omitted]

Opposition Parties Ready for Talks With NDPL

AB221302 Paris AFP in French 1127 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Monrovia, 22 Apr (AFP) — Two of the three Liberian opposition parties have expressed their readiness to resume the negotiations that began last September with the National Democratic Party of Liberia (NDPL, the ruling party) and were later suspended by the opposition parties because of what they described as an "unfavorable atmosphere for reconciliation" prevailing in the country at the time.

These two decisions, announced today in an interview with the AFP correspondent in Monrovia, come 2 days after Liberia's Catholic bishops appealed for the unconditional resumption of the dialogue with the aim of "reducing the tension and putting an end to the stalemate and the atmosphere of fear and intimidation reigning in the country."

The Liberia Action Party (LAP), led by Jackson Doe (no relative of President Samuel Doe), and the United People's Party (UPP), headed by Gabriel Baccus Matthews, have announced that they are now ready for any "serious" negotiation designed to find solutions to Liberia's problems "once and for all," UPP Vice Chairman Wesley Johnson stated.

The only demand made by the LAP vice chairman, Nah-Doe Bropleh, is respect for the Constitution, especially in the area of freedom of the press and personal movement. Since 17 April, the government has authorized the publication of information periodicals by opposition parties.

MALI

Traore Returns From CEAO, ANAD Summits; Comments

AB222230 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2015 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] General Moussa Traore, president of the republic, returned to Bamako this afternoon after participating in the 12th summit of the CEAO [West African Economic Community] and the 8th summit of the ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement]. At Bamako International Airport President Moussa Traore was welcomed by members of the Central Executive Bureau, the government, the National Assembly, and the diplomatic corps. On arrival from Nouakchott, the head of state said he was satisfied with the 12th summit of the CEAO. Here is Gen Moussa Traore speaking to Oumar Sangare:

[Begin recording] I have returned from Nouakchott, where the 12th CEAO summit and the 8th ANAD summit were held. During these two meetings, important decisions were made in accordance with the community's desire to build our states within a harmonious socioeconomic framework in the subregion. It was decided to activate certain services such as the agriculture development service and the industrial development service. It was also decided to increase the authority of the secretary general, who should now preside over all board meetings of CEAO institutions. In addition, he will ensure the peace and security of our subregion.

During these conferences some decisions made were marked by the political will of the heads of state or their representatives, and this made the CEAO summit quite decisive in the integrated organization of the West African subregion.

It must also be noted that this conference was held at a time when all the countries of the subregion are hard-hit by the world economic crisis, and especially the Sahelian countries which are also experiencing drought and desert encroachment. The community reaffirmed its determination to continue with its socioeconomic development efforts. Thus this 12th CEAO summit was quite decisive.

Before ending, I would once more like to thank the citizens of Nouakchott and members of the CMSN [Military Committee for National Salvation] as well as President Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya for the warm and hospitable reception accorded my delegation and myself. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Chad's Goukouni Oueddei Arrives in Lagos 21 Apr

AB221259 Paris AFP in French 1156 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Lagos, 22 Apr (AFP) — Former Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei arrived in Lagos yesterday for a short visit to explain to the Nigerian authorities "his own approach to the national reconciliation problem in Chad," an official of the Ministry of External Affairs said today.

Goukouni Oueddei, this official specified, held talks late yesterday afternoon with Nigerian External Affairs Minister Bolaji Akinyemi. He will also pay a courtesy call on Head of State Ibrahim Babangida and leave Lagos later today, Wednesday.

Newspaper Urges Airport Drug Crackdown

AB221122 Lagos International Service in English 1030 GMT 22 Apr 87

[From the press review]

[Text] The *Nigerian Observer* discusses the recent seizure of Nigeria Airways' only Boeing 747 aircraft in New York. The paper sees the episode as yet another disgrace to Nigeria's already battered international image. It wonders how the alleged drug pusher, Billy Ekon, was allowed to board the aircraft in uniform when he was not on duty, and therefore questioned the security network at the country's airports. While the *Observer* welcomes the announcement by the managing director of the airways that police dogs would be acquired to sniff out carriers, it also wants the federal government to ensure a lasting solution to drug trafficking by Nigerians.

Anti-Drug Measures Taken

AB221250 Dakar PANA in English 1204 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Lagos 22 April (NAN/PANA) — A uniform crew-kit-bag will soon be introduced for Nigeria Airways flight crew to help check incidence of drug trafficking, Minister of Transport and Aviation Brig Jerry Useni has said.

The kit-bag, according to the minister, would ensure that the crew did not carry other bags that could have multi-compartments in which drugs could be hidden.

An airline staff told NAN that the minister gave the indication yesterday in Lagos at a meeting with pilots of the airline where he said that the arrest of a former captain in the United States last week for drug trafficking was embarrassing to the airline and the country.

SENEGAL

Diouf Fires Senegambian Security Officer

AB221107 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] The president of the republic, in accordance with ordinance No 86002 of 11 April 1986 on the replacement of a technical adviser in the Office of the Confederal Minister of Security; in accordance with the amended ordinance No 8 of 5 April 1983 on the reshuffle of the Senegambian Confederation Cabinet, decrees:

Article 1: The appointment of Mr (Gibril Guindo), former permanent under secretary in the Senegalese Ministry of the Interior, as technical adviser in the Office of the Confederal Minister of Security, has been terminated.

Article 2: The acting confederal minister of security is responsible for the execution of the present ordinance, which will be published in the confederation's *Official Gazette*.

Government Decree Reinstates 300 Policemen

AB221308 Paris AFP in French 0737 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Dakar, 22 Apr (AFP) — A week after the disturbances which resulted in street confrontations between the police and the gendarmes and in the dismissal of the entire Senegalese police force, an initial series of readmissions was announced yesterday evening by the Dakar government.

According to a decree published yesterday, some 300 policemen out of the 6,265 dismissed were readmitted. This action generally covers officers who work at the harbors, airports, and in passport services.

The gendarmes, who are a part of the Army, will still be responsible for traffic control and public order in large towns under the supervision of the civilian authorities until the police service is reorganized.

Opposition Condemns Government Stand on Chad

AB222154 Paris AFP in French 1751 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Dakar, 22 Apr (AFP) — The Democratic National Rally, RND, one of Senegal's 16 opposition parties, has condemned the Dakar government's attitude toward the Chadian crisis and its "systematic alignment with the stand of France and the United States."

In a communique issued today at the end of its congress, the RND stated that the official Senegalese media "present Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in a light that contrasts with the aid he has given Africans involved in an armed struggle against imperialism."

The RND also called on Senegal to recognize the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic and condemned, with reference to France, "the presence of foreign military bases" in the country.

Finally, he proposed that all Senegalese workers forfeit a day's pay to support the ANC financially in its fight against apartheid in South Africa.

Ely [name indistinct] was elected secretary general of the RND, the party founded by the famous Egyptologist, Cheikh Anta Diop, who died recently in Dakar.

SIERRA LEONE

Talks on Twinning With Conakry Begin in Freetown

AB221040 Dakar PANA in English 1730 GMT 21 Apr 87

[Text] Freetown, 21 April (SENA/PANA) — Preparatory talks for the twinning of Freetown and Conakry to merge the two cities in economic, cultural, social, and other areas of cooperation have started in Freetown today.

Welcoming Guinea's five man delegation to the talks, the chairman of Freetown's City Council Committee of Management yesterday, Mr. Alfred Akibo Betts, said he was heartened that representatives of Sierra Leone and Guinea had decided to cast off all that differentiates them in heritage, language, and others to grasp on their common desire to bridge the gap between Conakry and Freetown and to unite their respective peoples.

He reminded delegates on both sides that they were at the talks not on their tribal tickets, but on a higher pedestal on their being Africans discussing their problems with fellow Africans.

The success of their talks, he predicted, will consolidate the efforts of their respective leaders in bringing harmony and prosperity to the peoples of both countries.

Mr Akibo Betts pledged his Committee of Management's commitment to fostering the existing good relationship between Conakry and Freetown.

The director of political affairs in the Guinean Ministry of the Interior and Decentralisation, Mr Baden Diare, replied that their presence at the talks underscored the importance they attach to the development of an atmosphere of mutual understanding, friendship, and solidarity in the twinning of both cities.

He said the meeting was indicative of the wishes of their respective heads of states, their governments, and people and hoped the exercise would transcend the symbol to the mutual benefit of Conakry and Freetown.

He called for the assiduous preparation of legal instruments by the two municipalities to achieve their desired objectives.

TOGO

Benin's Kerekou Stops Over, Meets With Eyadema

AB222255 Lome Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] On his way back home from Nouakchott, where he has just attended the deliberations of the 12th CEAO [West African Economic Community] summit and those of the 8th ANAD [Nonaggression and Defense Aid Agreement] summit, Beninese President Mathieu Kerekou made a technical stopover in Lome early this afternoon. The Beninese president's Fokker landed at 1330.

President Gnassingbe Eyadema was at the airport to welcome his Beninese brother and friend. The heads of state listened to the Togolese and Beninese national anthems and reviewed a detachment of the Presidential Guard under the command of Major Sassaka. They then greeted the senior officers and members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee.

Presidents Eyadema and Kerekou later went to the airport's VIP lounge, where they held about 45 minutes of talks, which are believed to have centered on the decisions made at the CEAO and ANAD summits in Nouakchott. At the end of their discussions, General Eyadema accompanied his guest to his plane, which took off at about 1415.

SOUTH AFRICA

Railway, Harbor Union Strike Continues

Police Kill 5 Railworkers

MB221232 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1230 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 22, SAPA — Five striking railworkers were killed and an unknown number injured after police opened fire on South African Railway and Harbour Workers Union (SARHWU) members during an "illegal gathering" at Doornfontein Station in Johannesburg shortly after 1pm today, according to the police.

Two police, one a senior officer attached to the riot squad was seriously wounded when the crowd attacked the police detachment following an attempt with tearsmoke to disperse the mob.

A spokesman for police headquarters in Pretoria said the crowd gathered at the station shortly after 1pm. Police moved in and told the crowd to disperse. When they refused, tearsmoke was used and according to police, the mob became unruly and attacked the police squad.

The major was stabbed three times according to early reports.

A young constable was also injured, apparently shot by an unknown gunman.

Police then opened fire on the crowds killing five men and wounding an unspecified number.

The wounded policemen were taken to hospital in an apparent serious condition. It is not known which hospital they were admitted to and their names have not yet been released.

The confrontation came about when thousands of SAP and SADF members were deployed at stations throughout the Witwatersrand to protect passengers, staff and rolling stock.

Police Say 3 Dead

MB221654 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1651 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg Apr 22 SAPA — Three people died and several were wounded when a policeman defending four colleagues from attack opened fire on a crowd in Johannesburg, a police spokesman confirmed tonight.

"What happened — in an act of defence of the other members present, a member of the riot reaction unit opened fire in order to save the lives of the four men who were being attacked at that stage," Lt Pierre Louw, police spokesman for the Johannesburg area, told the SABC. "He fired several shots and three of the crowd were killed at the scene and several were injured."

He said the crowd dispersed and police called for ambulances to tend the wounded and dead. Lt Louw said the area was "definitely under control" at the moment.

He recounted how the incident began. "This afternoon at approximately four minutes past one in Davey Street Doornfontein, a crowd of people gathered illegally and were so informed by the South African Police. They were warned to disperse, which they refused to do, and eventually the police were forced to use teargas to disperse them. They however still did not react and became very aggressive, resulting in a an attack on four members of the force who were stabbed and stoned by the crowd." "This was the extent of their armoury at this stage." It would be revealed in investigations later if any of them carried guns, he added.

The incident occurred next to the Doornfontein railway station, Johannesburg.

Asked if any of the crowd were striking railway workers, Lt Louw said: "We will identify that possibly during the investigation. At this stage it would be a bit pro-active to make a specific statement in this regard."

Bureau Issues Statement

MB221814 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1809 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 22 SAPA — The Bureau for Information tonight reported that three people were killed and five wounded when police fired on a crowd that attacked them with stones and knives. Two policemen were seriously injured.

The bureau said that shortly after 1pm three police officers were seriously injured when they were attacked by "rioters" in Davey Street, Doornfontein, Johannesburg.

Another member of the police force opened fire on the crowd and killed three rioters. Five others were wounded and were subsequently taken into custody.

The incident occurred after a crowd — which reportedly included striking transport workers — had been asked to disperse peacefully by the police. When the crowd ignored the police warning, tear smoke was used in an attempt to disperse them. It was then that they turned on the police and attacked them with stones and knives.

After the incident the rioters fled into COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions] House.

The police surrounded COSATU House and at approximately 6pm gained entry into the building. They arrested a number of people including some rioters who had been wounded.

Police Surround, Seal Building

MB221413 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1406 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 22 SAPA — Security forces locked and surrounded COSATU House following a shooting incident at Doornfontein Station in Johannesburg, people in the building told SAPA this afternoon.

One witness said people in COSATU House were informed over the buildings intercom system that police had ordered the buildings front door locked and nobody was to leave.

They were also told to shut the windows in case of teargas being fired.

Following an incident at Doornfontein Station when members of the police and the striking railworkers union, SARHWU [South African Railway and Harbor Workers Union], were involved, the union building was surrounded and about 500 people, including journalists are trapped inside.

The publicity secretary for the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Mr Jay Naidoo, was refused entry into the building on his return from Germiston on the east Rand where he was investigating incidents that led to a shooting incident there.

Mr Naiddo said from his lawyers offices that he had been refused entry to COSATU House and was told to contact a senior police officer at John Vorster Square for permission to enter the building.

The officer was contacted and he said he knew nothing about it and therefore would not give permission to enter the building, Mr Naidoo told SAPA.

[SAPA prefaces this item as follows: "Attention editors. This contravenes emergency regs and has been submitted to IPLC."[Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center]]

Police Chased by 50 Men

MB221527 Umtata Capital Radio in English
1500 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] There have been unconfirmed reports of a shooting incident at union offices outside Germiston in which three people were apparently shot dead.

Meanwhile, SAPA reports that about 50 men armed with axes and sticks chased people through the streets at COSATU House. Two men were shot as a policeman with a bleeding head ran from the gang dodging between armored trucks. The group then ran back into the multistory building that houses the 600,000 member Congress of South African Trade Unions. There have been no confirmation of these reports.

UDF Condemns Government Acts

MB222000 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1947 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg Apr 22 SAPA — It was obvious that SATS [South African Transport Services] the police and the government had substituted negotiations with the bullet and their murderous acts have set the stage for even greater confrontation, the United Democratic Front spokesman, Mr Murphy Morobe, said today.

Reacting to the deaths today in Germiston and Johannesburg of six striking SARHWU [South African Railway and Harbor Union] workers, he said the UDF was deeply angered by the "utter carelessness" that the police had shown in "mowing down" the strikers.

"Acting under the cover of the state of emergency the police have become a law unto themselves, enjoying the obvious protection of their minister, Mr Adriaan Vlok. Coupled with SATS stubborn refusal not to recognise and negotiate with SARHWU the murderous action of the police has now set the state for even greater confrontation," he said.

"The blame lies squarely with the police, SATS and the government. It is obvious they have realised that threats of dismissals cannot deter the workers. And they have now substituted negotiations with the bullet. If SATS goes ahead with its threatened dismissals it must do so fully aware that such action will certainly draw the ire of all commuters and greater mass action will become a real possibility."

[Johannesburg SAPA in English 1652 GMT on 22 April carries an advisory regarding this item: "Subs: The IPLC [Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center] has replied to our request for comment on the Shooting-UDF story (432) ex JHB. Their reply is as follows: Re your report as presented to the IPLC regarding statement by Mr Murphy Morobe. Your report falls within the ambit of Article 3(1) and a SAP spokesman has refused permission for publication of the report as presented."]

3 Killed in Germiston Offices

MB230500 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0153 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 22, SAPA — Three railway workers were shot dead by police at COSATU's Germiston offices this morning, an eyewitness said tonight.

The Bureau for Information said "three more black rioters had been shot dead during unrest at Germiston station."

The eyewitness, a trade union organiser, told a press conference tonight that about 1000 members of the SA Railways and Harbours Workers Union had gathered at the Germiston offices for a meeting.

Nearly 22000 railway workers were given an ultimatum by the SA Transport Services that they return to work by 8am today or be dismissed.

The eyewitness said the meeting was so crowded workers could not fit into the building. At about 11.30am the police arrived and started sjambokking [whipping] workers outside the building telling them to disperse.

The police then rushed into the hall, "indiscriminately sjambokking" workers. In the chaos, workers smashed through the plate glass windows at the back of the hall. As they crashed through the windows, police outside attacked them with sjamboks.

Meanwhile workers streamed out the front of the building in panic.

"Without giving a warning, the police opened fire," said the eyewitness, who was on a first-floor balcony.

Three workers were left dead and their bodies removed by police.

[Johannesburg SAPA in English at 0937 GMT on 23 April advises that this item is one of three that "fall within the ambit of Article 3(1) and a SAP spokesman has refused permission for publication of the report as presented."]

Police Seal Off Area

MB230507 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2301 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 22, SAPA — An eyewitness passing COSATU house in central Johannesburg at about 6pm tonight said the place resembled a military siege.

The eyewitness said about 20 armoured vehicles — either casspirs or hippos — containing SAP and SADF members were parked directly outside COSATU house — the scene of bloody battle today between police and enraged railways workers that have left four dead.

He said the area for about four blocks was sealed by security forces — said at least 100 were visible, some with teargas cannisters and gasmasks, others with radio backpacks.

Snipers were positioned on rooftops on surrounding buildings and a nearby children's playpark had become a casspir parking lot.

"It looks like they are poised to storm the building," the eyewitness added.

[SAPA prefaces this item with the following: "the following may contravene the emergency regulations. Copy to IPLC [Interdepartmental Press Liaison Center] for comment."]

Police Not To Assault Detainees

MB230511 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0143 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 22, SAPA — Police have undertaken that they will not assault the hundreds of trade union members picked up at COSATU house this evening following a siege of the building today. Three workers were earlier shot dead by police at Doornfontein station while another three were shot dead at a meeting in Germiston this morning.

Addressing a press conference in Johannesburg tonight, Mr Peter Harris, attorney for the Congress for SA Trade Unions, said his firm had applied to the state attorney (acting on behalf of the commissioner of police) to obtain an undertaking by police that detainees would not be assaulted further.

Brig Gert May, divisional police inspector for the Witwatersrand had undertaken that none of the COSATU members held would be assaulted. He said he would undertake to instruct members of the police at John Vorster Square not to commit any unlawful act against any member of COSATU.

Reports from people on the scene said at least 10 police van loads of workers had been removed from COSATU house when police entered at about 4.30pm. There were about 1000 people in the building at the time.

COSATU Calls Urgent Meetings

MB230515 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0251 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 22, SAPA — The Congress of SA Trade Unions said it would not accept the police shootings of six of its members in Johannesburg and Germiston today and had called urgent meetings of its structures to discuss response to the action.

Addressing a press conference tonight, general secretary of the 600,000-member trade union federation, Mr Jay Naidoo, said COSATU condemned the use of "unprovoked" violence to end a strike of the "legitimate demands" of the rail workers.

Nearly 22000 railways workers have been on strike for six weeks in protest at the dismissal of a colleague. Yesterday workers were given an ultimatum by the SA Transport Services [SATS] to return to work or consider themselves dismissed.

"SATS is again trying to crush workers forcefully to maintain its workforce in feudal conditions," Mr Naidoo said.

"COSATU sees the brutal attack on railway workers as an assault on the entire working class.

"Our members and the broader oppressed and exploited community will never accept that management and the government can use guns and sjamboks [whips] to crush the legitimate demands of the workers," Mr Naidoo added.

Three people were killed by police at Doornfontein station after a crowd including railway workers, attacked policemen. Two policemen were seriously wounded. Workers ran back to COSATU house for refuge.

Mr Naidoo said COSATU house was placed under siege. No one was allowed to leave or enter. All phones and telex machines were cut off. The army was deployed at the building and barricades were set up.

He said the building was then entered by police, and many workers and union officials were taken into custody. The building was searched and occupants "indiscriminately" assaulted.

Mr Naidoo said it was significant that the attack on COSATU house today came on the same day that SATS gave workers and ultimatum to return to work.

[Johannesburg SAPA in English at 0937 GMT on 23 April advises that this item is one of three that "fall within the ambit of Article 3(1) and a SAP spokesman has refused permission for publication of the report as presented."]

Over 400 Detained

MB230612 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0608 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 23, SAPA — Two of the eight policemen injured in fierce fighting between security forces and striking railwaymen in Doornfontein yesterday are still in a serious condition.

SABC radio news reported this morning that Maj Barry van der Walt had to undergo emergency surgery during the night for wounds received in the street battle.

The report said the condition of Constable Gert van Jaarsveld deteriorated suddenly overnight. Both men are being treated in the Johannesburg hospital.

The report also said more than 400 people had been detained in the siege of COSATU House which followed the clashes between railwaymen and police. Some of the detainees have been released.

Six men, believed to be railway workers, were killed when police opened fire on meetings of strikers in Germiston on the East Rand and Doornfontein yesterday.

SAHRWU Links Attacks, Election

MB230522 Johannesburg SAPA in English
2221 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg, April 22, SAPA — Today's police attack on COSATU members in Johannesburg and Germiston that left six workers dead was linked to the forthcoming elections on May 6, a SA Harbour and Railways Workers Union [SAHRWU] official said tonight.

Addressing a press conference, SAHRWU education secretary, Mr Mike Roussos, said that in its attack on the trade union movement, the government was placating its far right which had in the past considered it too soft on trade unions.

Mr Roussos said the six-week old strike involving 22000 SA Transport Services Workers was the result of a small issue which could have been settled long ago. Five-hundred drivers at City Deep depot went out on strike over the dismissal of a colleague. The other strikers joined in sympathy.

Mr Roussos said earlier today, SAHRWU members at COSATU house heard about the death of their fellow workers at Germiston and rushed toward Doornfontein station to find out what had happened. On their way, they were intercepted by police. Clashes ensued and shots were fired that left three workers dead and five wounded. Workers returned to COSATU house and police refused any one entry or exit.

Mr Roussos said after a meeting of various unions, officials decided to send a delegation to speak to police outside the building. At about 4.30pm, a police officer called over a loud-hailer that the building should be vacated in 10 minutes or police would move in. There were about 1000 workers there in the building.

He said workers milling around in the foyer tried to leave, but were turned back. Police then entered the building. He said from the eighth floor he heard shots and when he went down later saw blood in the foyer.

Police sealed the building, floor to floor, and "deliberately vandalised" the entire building. Locked offices were broken into, notice boards were ripped down and posters were torn down.

He said police left the building at about 8.45pm.

[Johannesburg SAPA in English at 0937 GMT on 23 April advises that this item is one of three which "fall within the ambit of Article 3 (1) and a SAP spokesman has refused permission for publication of the report as presented."]

Transport Services Dismiss 6,000 After Ultimatum

MB221628 Johannesburg Television Service in English
1600 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Six thousand South African Transport Services [SATS] workers have been dismissed after not meeting today's deadline set by management for them to return to work or lose their jobs. About 16,000 workers were still on strike today, defying the ultimatum aimed at ending the 6-week-old stayaway. General manager of SATS, Dr Bart Grove, outlines the situation.

[Begin Grove video recording] Our attitude was to try to get our people back to work. Yesterday, approximately 1,000 people resumed duties. Today, before we started to dismiss people, another 2,000, approximately, came back to work, and I had no option but to start dismissing people, and up until now we have dismissed approximately 6,000 people. We will finalize the whole question tomorrow. And, if I may say, I think it is important to say that every one of our workers who would start to strike now would be dismissed immediately. [end video recording]

SATS Issues Statement

MB221820 Johannesburg SAPA in Afrikaans
1719 GMT 22 Apr 87

["SAPA PR [Press Release] Wire Service; Issued by: SATS."]

[Text] The general manager of the South African Transport Services [SATS], Dr Bart Grove, and his management staff today expressed their sincere regret that several thousand workers had to be dismissed today. They further regretted that these workers and their families, due to intense intimidation and negative influences, were the victims of the political objectives of a radical minority group.

Over the past 6 weeks, through a process of the utmost patience, everything possible was done to bring the strike to a peaceful and fair end.

Just yesterday, by means of negotiation and persuasion (with representatives at various depots), a final attempt had been made to point out to the strikers what their loss would be in income and employment. Although there were some positive results, this was not enough and unfortunately management had to begin dismissals.

More than the plotters and instigators, management realizes how much the dismissed workers and their families have lost, and has announced that a campaign of employment and reemployment will soon begin. Those who have been dismissed can also be considered for employment. Requirements will be knowledge of the work, dependability, work attendance (before the strike), and general suitability, as supported by the applicant concerned in his previous service record with the Transport Services. Membership of a trade union will not play be a factor for employment.

However, Dr Grove emphasized that strikers guilty of intimidation will definitely not be considered for employment.

Further, Dr Grove indicated that under present legislation it is not possible to link a person who is reemployed to his previous period of employment, and as such people will be taken into service as new employees.

Because management is aware that the great majority of the dismissed workers were not willing participants in the strike, Dr Grove will do his utmost to obtain the approval of the minister of transport services for the early presentation of legislation aimed at linking returning workers' benefits to their earlier period of employment. In this way, people who are reemployed will be able to retain all pension and long-term benefits accumulated in their earlier period of employment.

SATS Chief Views Strike

MB221916 Johannesburg Television Service
in Afrikaans 1830 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Interview with Dr Bart Grove, general manager of the South African Transport Services, SATS, by Kolie van Koller on the "Network" program — live]

[Text] [Van Koller] Doctor, good evening and welcome to Network. Could you briefly give us the background of the strike?

[Grove] This unfortunate incident, of course, began at our City Deep container depot, where one of our workers, one Andrew, was found guilty — and also pleaded guilty — to a cash irregularity. In the Transport Services we're very strict about two things, that is, the safety of our people, and honesty or dishonesty. The supervisor decided that this matter was serious enough to dismiss the man. But Andrew had the right to appeal to the regional manager, and he immediately exercised this right. In other words, he was kept on staff while his appeal was being heard. The regional manager found that the penalty was too severe, and changed the punishment from dismissal to a fine of 80 rands. Soon after that the strike began.

[Van Koller] So that was the cause?

[Grove] That was the cause. Now, one can perhaps accept that there was some misunderstanding and lack of communication in the sense that some of the workers were under the impression that the man had been fired. What is peculiar is that Andrew did not make use of his further right to appeal to me, as general manager, and that, since then, he has disappeared from the scene. We therefore deduce that he was removed from the scene so that a reason could be given for continuing the strike.

[Van Koller] Doctor, on the first day 2,000 people went on strike at City Deep. It was an illegal strike from the start. Why did you not act at that time?

[Grove] When the people at City Deep ... [changes thought] Among them there are many who have been working for us for a very long time. These people have been trained by us. They are people who we would like to keep in our employment. We do not like to fire people left and right, and we wanted to follow the open door policy of negotiation, and show that we keep an open door and are always ready to negotiate. Unfortunately this time it did not bear all the necessary fruit, but I am still convinced that we followed the right policy.

[Van Koller] Were you always ready to talk to the strikers?

[Grove] We were always prepared to talk with them. Indeed, when the strike had been on for a short while, one of our senior officials who is well versed in negotiation techniques talked to the striker's representatives. These people said they were surprised, that they were learning for the first time what was actually going on. They had been given a totally different picture, by SARHWU [South African Railways and Harbors Workers Union] about what was taking place. Right away they declared themselves prepared to return to work and said all that was needed was for them to return to the workers the following day and persuade them to return. The next day they went back to the workers, but unfortunately they could not persuade them to return, although the matter was on the point of being resolved.

[Van Koller] When was that? How far into the strike?

[Grove] That was when the strike was about a week old, very early in the strike.

[Van Koller] You say your door is always open, but with whom are you prepared to talk?

[Grove] We are prepared to talk to the trade unions that represent the majority of our people. A trade union has an important role to play. The workers must have a channel through which they can present their problems to management, and negotiate. We have a black trade union that boasts 61,000 members and that, in the years since it was formed, has negotiated with us and brought many positive improvements in the service conditions of the workers they represent. That process is still continuing, and we are quite prepared to talk to those people. But when a new trade union is formed that begins to lure members away from our people — and they do have some members — we cannot, surely, negotiate simultaneously with them and this other trade union.

You would end up with two, or three, or five, or ten.

[Van Koller] But, Doctor, you say it was a minor incident that started the whole affair. Was there some influence from outside the labor field, do you think?

[Grove] Look, it is impossible that thousands of people can go on strike over a single fine of 80 rands. I mean, it is clear there must be other important reasons. I have no doubt that this strike is politically motivated.

[Van Koller] Have you any proof of this, Dr Grove?

[Grove] Well, you know, SARHWU, the trade union that has been so involved in this matter, was formed as long ago as 1936 from the South African Communist Party. When the ANC was banned, they went underground, and for a long time they have been inactive. Now they have become active again and have started canvassing for members from among our people. We cannot stop them from doing so, let us make that clear, and we have never attempted to do so. But they are affiliated with COSATU and the UDF and in that group we also have the ANC, and we have no doubt that the aim of this strike was to disrupt the transport services, thus playing a role in this revolutionary era in which we are living.

[Van Koller] Doctor, it is now 2030. As I understand it, since the ultimatum was for this morning at 0800, many people must have already been dismissed. Can you tell us about that?

[Grove] Well, let me first say that there are many people who did return to work...

[Van Koller, interrupting] Could you give us some figures?

[Grove] Yesterday about 1,000 people returned to work, and during the morning today about 2,000 people returned to work. That is the minority, to be sure...

[Van Koller, interrupting] That was before 0800?

[Grove] That was before 0800, or before we started the process of firing people — the process is a long one. Before we started firing people, there were about 2,000 who had returned to work. You know, we cannot simply decide that 15,000 or 18,000 people have been fired. We have a specific process we have to follow, and we...

[Van Koller, interrupting] But you have already started?

[Grove] We have already begun, and I have used my discretion to pay off several thousand people. But we are still in the process, and we will not complete all that today. It will have to be carried over to tomorrow.

[Van Koller] Would you not like to...

[Grove, interrupting] I can assure you that tomorrow a large number of people will also decide to return.

[Van Koller] You would not like to give us some figures on how many people have already been dismissed?

[Grove] Well, while I was on my way to the studio, the figure was about 6,000. But the matter is still being dealt with today, and tomorrow we hope to complete the process.

[Van Koller] Doctor, if the people do not return to work, as you say, are you going to dismiss the whole 18,000 or 20,000, those still on strike?

[Grove] All who are on strike are going to be dismissed, and everyone who begins striking from now, no matter when they are, will also be dismissed.

[Van Koller] Doctor, what about those people who were on strike, but changed their minds, and want to return to work, but have already been dismissed? Are you going to reemploy them?

[Grove] We will employ them. We will definitely have to look at their records up to the present with us, whether they gave us good service — and the overwhelming majority of those who are going to be dismissed are people who gave us good service — and we will then consider their cases sympathetically.

[Van Koller] As I understand it, the dismissals will take a few days.

[Grove] No, no. I think by tomorrow it will have been completed.

[Van Koller] The total number?

[Grove] The total number.

[Van Koller] And what about reemployment, or recruitment of new workers to fill the positions?

[Grove] As soon as possible after we have completed this issue of the strike, we will begin reemploying people, along with employing other potential workers.

[Van Koller] Let us discuss the damage during the strike, in terms of salaries and physical damage.

[Grove] Well, you know, that is the tragic thing to me, that the great losers in this strike are the workers and their families and relatives. I honestly hope that the trade union that forced these people into this, that they will be made aware that they have robbed these people of salaries and service bonuses running into a total of at least 12 or 15 million rands, money that was waiting to be paid to them if only they had wanted to work, if they only had continued working. Now, the other side of the matter is very worrying to me, and that is the damage caused to our property by the burning of coaches on our suburban trains. It is not possible to say exactly how much damage was caused, because those coaches will have to be thoroughly examined to determine the damage and also how much can be repaired. Some of the coaches, it seems, will have to be written off completely. And the damage runs into the millions of rands, probably about 25 million rands.

[Van Koller] Doctor, we are almost at the end of our discussion, but let me just ask you, how does one feel when one has to use one's discretion and so many people are involved, so many workers, so many families? How does one feel?

[Grove] Mr van Koller, let me tell you, this morning, when I was on my way to the office, the thought ran through my mind that when I was regional manager in Johannesburg, and a file was sent to me of a person I had to fire, I would read the evidence over and over, from front to back and over again. One realizes how much is at stake. Unfortunately I was left with no choice today. I had to exercise my discretion because this matter could not be left indefinitely. I only hope that we will not be involved in such a matter again soon and that our workers will also realize that they are the real victims, and that they should not allow themselves be intimidated to the degree they were this time.

[Van Koller] Dr Bart Grove, thank you for visiting our studio for this discussion. Good Luck.

[Grove] Thank you.

Soweto Buses Resume Operations; Strike Detailed

MB221532 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1515 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 22 SAPA — Johannesburg was hit by a stayaway today by workers living in Soweto and schools and offices in the township were closed.

The PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] bus service stopped operating inside the township by 8am because of intimidation and possible damage to buses.

A PUTCO spokesman said about 70 windows had been smashed this morning and he estimated the damage at R5000. He said that the company had started operating in the township again at about 3pm. Between 8am and 3pm buses went no further than Baragwanath Hospital on the outskirts of the sprawling township.

PUTCO's spokesman, Mr Robin Duff, said that so far buses going into Soweto had "not encountered any problems." He added that, as was the case this morning, buses were running at about 75 per cent of their capacity.

SAPA's correspondent reported earlier today that all the township's high schools were empty and there were "lots of people in the streets."

Earlier thousands of people marching on the Soweto Council offices were dispersed with teargas and council workers left the offices at 1pm because of a fear of reprisals by youths enforcing the stayaway called to protect against evictions for non-payment of rent.

The stayaway follows the distribution of thousands of pamphlets relating to evictions in Soweto calling for residents to act "as a dignified, disciplined and united" people. The pamphlets also demanded an end to evictions, the resignation of councillors and the lifting of the state of emergency. Under a heading "Message to Bosses," the pamphlet advised employers to "Force Heunis (Mr Chris Heunis, minister of constitutional development and planning) through your employer organisation to talk to the Civic (Association)."

Large companies in Johannesburg differed in their reports on how the stayaway affected them.

The OK Bazaars public affairs senior manager, Mr Alan Fabig, said the stayaway had affected his company less than expected. "Out of more than 300 Sowetans on the payroll in one store we would have expected to be hurt by the stayaway, but only 50 failed to appear for work this morning and many have since telephoned to say they will now come in if transport can be arranged. We now estimate attendance at about 80 per cent or more at our main Eloff Street store. The stayaway is most noticeable on the east Rand rather than the west Rand but even on the east side we have been surprised at how modest the stayaway has been," Mr Fabig told SAPA.

Most of the companies questioned said absenteeism had risen to around 50 per cent by noon and had remained at about this level.

Pick N Pay's human resources manager, Mr Frans van der Walt, said: "About half our Soweto-based workers did not make the 11am shift. However, the proportions of those who came to work and those who didn't varied so widely from store to store that to give an overall average could mean little. At our Norwood store, with 450 affected employees, there was a 70 per cent stayaway. At Steeldale, with 378 employees, it was some 50 per cent. At Ormandie, with 200, it was again about 70 per cent."

A senior manager of the Edgars group said some stores that reported zero attendance this morning, this afternoon reported a 10 to 20 per cent attendance. "Of those who were unable to make it on time because of the withdrawal of PUTCO buses, a significant number trickled in later in the day."

Earlier today a spokesman for the Bureau for Information in Pretoria, Mr Deon van Loggernberg, said the bureau had only received reports of "three minor stonings" and that police dispersed demonstrators with teargas at two barricades in Soweto this morning. He said there were no reports of any injuries or arrests and damage in the incidents "was slight."

By late this afternoon no further reports on the situation in Soweto had been received from the Bureau for Information.

For most of the day delivery vehicles were not going into the township and were being offloaded at New Canada Station and at the Moroka police station.

PUTCO Report

MB230639 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0633 GMT 23 Apr 87

[SAPA PR (Press Release) Wire Service; Issued by the Public Utility Transport Corporation, PUTCO]

[Text] PUTCO's afternoon services ran normally to selected points within Soweto until 7pm wherafter buses turned at Bragwanath terminus. We lost a total of 77 windows yesterday.

This morning's operation got off to a slow start and many trips were cancelled due to lack of passengers.

Overall we estimate a 50 percent stay away in Soweto.

During the night three roads were barricaded and had to be cleared before the buses could operate. Two buses were hijacked early this morning, one being deliberately driven into the shop belonging to the former mayor of Dobsonville causing considerable damage.

We will again run a normal afternoon service from the CBD [Central Business District] and run as far as circumstances will allow into Soweto.

Strike Continues

MB230808 Johannesburg SAPA in English
0804 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Excerpts] Johannesburg, April 23, SAPA — Thousands of Soweto residents stayed away from work for the second successive day today, with PUTCO [Public Utility Transport Corporation] reporting a sharp drop in its passenger carrying rates to an average of 50 per cent of normal loads.

The Stayaway, apparently mounted as a protest against evictions arising from the 10-month-old rent dispute, took hold yesterday amid stoning of vehicles and burning barricades.

An 18-year-old youth, Mr Patrick Phokojoie, was shot in he head and seriously wounded after police opened fire in Naledi yesterday afternoon, the Bureau for Information reported today.

It said the shooting occurred when a group of about 20 youths stoned a delivery vehicle.

Youths set up a barricade at check points in several streets in Soweto this morning.

Thousands of workers made no attempt to get to work while the few who wanted to reach their workplaces were stranded on the main taxi and bus routes to Johannesburg. [passage omitted]

SATS [South African Transport Service] reported train services to Soweto were running at 60 to 65 per cent of normal carrying rates.

Today, youths in Orlando West, White City and Senaoane forced passengers out of cars at the barricades.

Those providing essential services like nurses and other hospital staff were required to produce their identity cards before they could proceed to work.

Security force presence was heavy, with police escorting PUTCO buses in Meadowland and Diepkloof. Others were posted at railway stations and bus stops.

Virtually all businesses in the township had shut down.

The stay-away is still accompanied by a total stay-home by school pupils. Even kindergartens stood empty today.

Major employers said yesterday it was difficult to assess the impact of the stayaway on their operations as most of them drew their workers from several townships besides Soweto.

Soweto Council Offices 'Quiet' After Rent Protest

MB221246 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1232 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Johannesburg April 22 SAPA — The Soweto Council offices are now quiet following an attempted rent protest this morning and council workers are leaving early, SAPA's correspondent reports.

The workers left the council offices at 1pm as there were fears that if they left in the afternoon they would be attacked for ignoring a stayaway call.

Earlier today marchers protesting against evictions were dispersed with tear gas as they approached the offices from the front and back.

By 1:30pm all was quiet and the offices were empty.

Attempt To Create 'Revolutionary Climate' Seen

MB230526 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 23 Apr 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the House of Assembly election a fortnight away, extraparliamentary groups have been intensifying their efforts to create a revolutionary climate in South Africa. The strikes by transport and postal workers, the incidents of arson on railway property, the hand grenade attack on municipal policeman in Soweto, and the latest agitation on the rents issue in black residential areas have all contributed to the attempt to build up a revolutionary climate in the weeks preceding the election.

Radical groups outside the parliamentary arena cannot hope to sabotage the election. Rather is their objective to, at the least, influence voting patterns and, at best, create a climate of uncertainty and confusion in which the new government that will be formed after the election will be denied a strong mandate from the electorate.

There are two reasons why extraparliamentary groups will welcome a postelection government that does not have a strong mandate and a healthy majority in Parliament. In the first place, the world at large is told by the African National Congress and other radical groups that the present government is unrepresentative of the people and, indeed, is illegitimate. Whichever party wins the election on 6 May will be similarly portrayed as unrepresentative and illegitimate and this portrayal will be facilitated if it has a weak mandate in respect of its electoral support.

In the second place, such a government, having problematical parliamentary support, would suit the ultimate objective of the revolutionaries of making South Africa ungovernable. An ungovernable country, in turn, would open the doors to an undemocratic takeover of the country and the establishment of a dictatorship. Towards this end, revolutionaries seek to intensify confrontation with the authorities through such action as strikes and antirent campaigns, they seek to step up acts of unrest and violence, and they seek to break down respect for established authority and, in particular, the forces of law and order.

Precipitate or rash action in confronting this revolutionary activity would be counterproductive and would play into the hands of the revolutionaries. A firm but responsible response by the authorities is called for. And, in the final analysis, it is the electorate which on 6 May must provide the ultimate response to the radicals and revolutionaries.

Pressure from extraparliamentary groups through passive resistance or acts of violence are extraneous to the central issue of the election. All the parties at the hustings are committed to negotiating a new political dispensation for South Africa and it is the how, why, and where of negotiation that is the central issue in the election.

Zimbabwe Holding 8 South African Citizens

MB221503 Johannesburg SAPA in English
1457 GMT 22 Apr 87

[Text] Pretoria April 22 SAPA — Eight South African citizens are being detained by Zimbabwe authorities, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed in Pretoria today.

A spokesman said South Africa's trade representative in Harare was fully informed about the matter and was in contact with the Zimbabwe Government.

"The families of the eight South Africans have also been fully informed."

The spokesman said no details of the identity of those being held, or circumstances of their detentions could be released at this stage.

Details would be made known "as soon as possible."

VII. WESTERN EUROPE DAILY REPORT

Contents unchanged

VIII. SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA DAILY REPORT

Renamed; formerly SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT; contents include:

- International Affairs
- Inter-African Affairs
- Central Africa
  - Burundi
  - Cameroon
  - Central African Republic
  - Congo
  - Equatorial Guinea
  - Gabon
  - Rwanda
  - Sao Tome & Principe
  - Zaire
- East Africa
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